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MARCH 21, 2003

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Special pullout section

Aging gays fear isolation

Elders hope for visibility as awareness grows

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Photo by R.O. Youngblood

COUNTING COUPLES: First-ever Census study documents gay parents, interracial couples. **Page 13**

BENEFITS BATTLE: Details elusive as Mayor **Shirley Franklin**, Council work on DP law. **Page 3**

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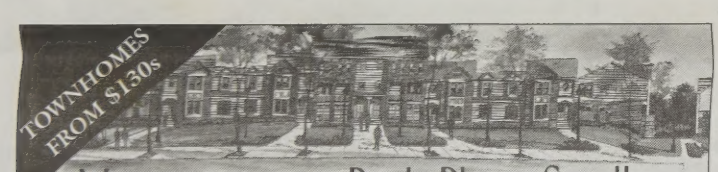

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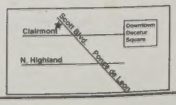

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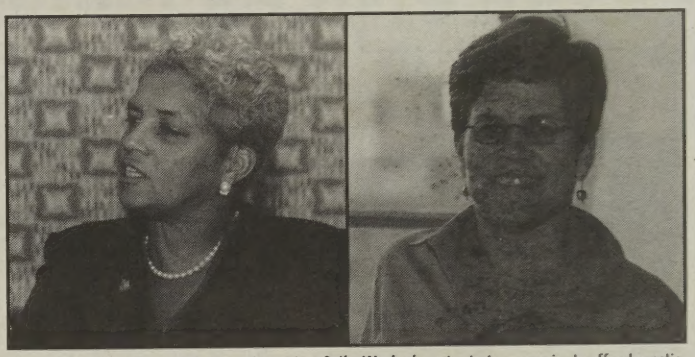
local news

Second try launched for 'equal benefits' law

Atlanta mayor, City Council president weigh best approach to enact policy both support in concept

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN



Mayor **Shirley Franklin** and City Council President **Cathy Woolard** want private companies to offer domestic partner benefits in order to compete for city contracts. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

Mayor Shirley Franklin and City Council President Cathy Woolard both support the idea of a measure that would require city contractors to offer domestic partner benefits.

Now Atlanta's top two elected officials must reach agreement on the best strategy to move the effort forward.

The mayor's office is working to coordinate meetings with Woolard and relevant City Council members to discuss the issue, according to Franklin's staff.

If successful, the move would put Atlanta on a short list of cities around the country, led by San Francisco, that have enacted the contracting law, commonly called an "equal benefits ordinance" or EBO.

"It's important because it would give the same opportunity to our committed relationships that married couples have, for benefits such as leave with a family illness and coverage of a partner's children and other types of benefits that are just common in the work place," said Anne Fauver, a gay Council member.

The contract requirement appeared to gain steam last week when Woolard, the state's first openly gay elected official, coordinated an effort to attach it as an amendment to a bill designed to ensure that city contractors pay "their employees a living wage and health benefits [and] practice pay equity."

The living wage bill is "a perfect vehicle" for an equal benefits ordinance, Woolard said last week. Woolard said she discussed the issue with Franklin and the mayor's staff and "we are all working together on this."

But Deputy Chief Operating Officer Gary Cox, Franklin's highest-ranking gay appointee, suggested last week that the mayor may not be fully behind Woolard's approach.

"We are not sure that the living wage ordinance is the best vehicle by which to accomplish legislation that can withstand a potential federal court challenge," Cox said in a prepared statement, citing "legal issues, budgetary considerations and implementation concerns" that require review.

Before the amendment could be added, the living wage bill stalled March 12 when the City Council's Finance/Executive Committee voted to hold it pending a work session and a public hearing.

No dates were set for either by press time, but both will probably take place in April, said Thermice Jordan, press secretary for the City Council.

The City Council is in recess until April 18, with the next council meeting set for April 21. The work session and public hearing likely won't occur during the recess, Jordan said.

Fauver said she supports a "well-crafted" EBO, but Woolard and Franklin are taking the lead on how best to accomplish it.

Through Cox, Franklin reaffirmed this week that she "remains committed to the concept of a constitutionally sound equal benefits ordinance," but declined to answer specific questions on whether she would support another effort to enact an EBO through the living wage bill.

Woolard also did not respond to interview requests on the issue by press time.

The concept of an EBO has strong backing not just from the mayor and City Council president, but also from City Council members who must vote to approve it.

When Woolard and Franklin were inaugurated in January 2002, the City Council also experienced a major influx of new leadership, with eight new members taking office.

Six of the eight new members expressed support for the concept of an EBO during campaign interviews and surveys conducted by Georgia Equality, according to Harry Knox, director of the group at the time.

Of the seven veteran Council members, all originally voted for an EBO passed by the City Council in December 2001 — meaning as many as 13 of the 15 members of the current City Council have expressed support for the measure. Eight votes are needed for it to pass.

But there may be debate over the wording of a new EBO and what exceptions — if any — it will include.

Second local attempt

Requiring Atlanta's city contractors to offer domestic partner benefits if they offer spouse benefits has been under discussion since at least 1997, the year San Francisco passed the first EBO in the country.

Running for re-election, then-Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell told Southern Voice he would "consider" EBOs. But Campbell took no public action on the issue until December 2001, when he vetoed an equal benefits ordinance hastily passed by the outgoing City Council at its last meeting of the year.

"I whole-heartedly agree with the basic intent ... Unfortunately, this particular piece of legislation is flawed as adopted, and if approved would cause tremendous hardship on small businesses who seek to do business with our city," said Campbell, who left office due to term limits.

That equal benefits ordinance was introduced by then-City Council member Michael Bond. The brief measure languished in the City Council's Finance/Executive Committee for almost two months over concerns it was too vague.

Bond, who gave up his seat on the council to run for City Council president and lost to Woolard, then forced a floor vote on the EBO during the last meeting before the new mayor and new City Council members took office.

The measure passed unanimously, but Council members later failed to muster enough votes to override Campbell's veto.

Some exemptions allowed

Bond later agreed with Campbell that his EBO should have contained exemptions for small companies, but the handful of other governments around the country that have enacted EBOs did not include such waivers.

San Francisco's highly successful EBO served as a model for others around the nation, including Los Angeles, Oakland, Berkeley and San Mateo County in California, as well as Seattle, Wash.

"Compliance rates for companies of different sizes are about the same, so I don't

Please see BENEFITS ORDINANCE on Page 7

MORE INFO

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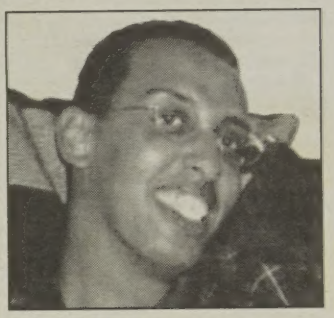
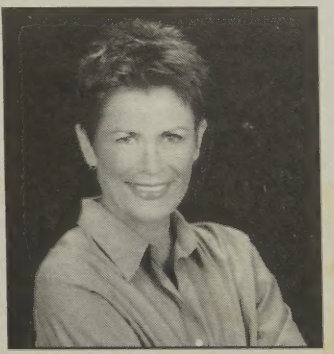


CANDLELIGHT VIGIL: Organizers want to denounce the acquittal of the man charged in the slaying of **Ahmed Dabarran** during a March 22 event in Marietta. **Page 4**

SODOMY TRIAL: The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments in the case against Texas' 'homosexual conduct' law on March 26. **Tyrone Garner** (left) and **John Lawrence** were arrested having sex in 1998.. **Page 15**



LAUGH MEDICINE: Lesbian comedian **Kate Clinton** brings her political comedy to Variety Playhouse March 29 for audiences desperate for a release from real-world tension. **Page 47**

local news

Vigil set in Cobb pick-up killing

Gay activists upset over acquittal as Fulton prosecutors prepare for new trial in gay slaying

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

As gay activists put the finishing touches on a candlelight vigil to protest the Cobb County District Attorney's handling of a murder trial involving a gay victim, Fulton County prosecutors are preparing for an upcoming murder trial with several parallels, officials said.

The trial in the death of Buckhead resident David K. Cook is expected to be scheduled sometime in the next two months, according to Erik Friedly, public affairs director for the Fulton County District Attorney's office.

Edward Jamar McCloud of Ozark, Ala., 22, and Joseph Hall, Jr. of Montgomery, Ala., 19, are charged with the April 6, 2002, murder of Cook, 41, according to indictments and police reports.

The counts against Hall and McCloud include malice murder, felony murder, aggravated assault, theft by taking, and financial transaction card theft, according to Friedly.

The case may get additional scrutiny from activists in the wake of last month's acquittal in the May 2001 death of Ahmen Dabarran, a popular Fulton County assistant attorney.

On Feb. 28, a Cobb County Superior Court jury acquitted Roderiqus Reshad Reed of malice murder, felony murder, aggravated assault and theft by taking in the killing of Dabarran, who worked in Fulton but lived in Cobb.

Slain gay Fulton County Assistant District Attorney **Ahmed Dabarran** will be remembered at a candlelight vigil March 22 on Marietta Square. (Photo courtesy www.CobbCandlelightVigil.com)

Reed admitted striking Dabarran with a pot in his apartment, but his defense attorneys focused on allegations that Dabarran led a secret gay life, lured Reed to his apartment with promises of a party "with girls," and then forced Reed to have oral sex with him.

Supporters of Dabarran will hold a candlelight vigil March 22 to protest what they call the "failed prosecution" and successful use of the "gay panic" defense in the case.

The event will include performances by the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus and Adodi Muse, and is co-sponsored by national organizations including the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, the gay Muslim group Al-Fatiha, and the Center for Democratic Renewal.

This week, Atlanta attorney Steve Koval, an organizer of the vigil, announced that Faisal Dabarani, the brother of the murder victim, would speak at the event.

Dabarani, who attended the trial, complained that his brother was not portrayed as "a real person" in the courtroom.

"It looked like they had problems with people with different lifestyles," Dabarani said of Cobb County prosecutor Tom Cole. "I thought they would take the case and excel with it, but they did not."

Dabarani said he and his brother — who had a wife from an arranged marriage — never talked about whether Dabarran was gay, "but it wouldn't have mattered," he said. "He was an angel and touched everyone he knew."

Cole and Cobb County District Attorney Patrick Head have refused comment on their handling of the case.

In the wake of the verdict, Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard announced his office would host a national symposium to train law enforcement officials and prosecutors on how to counter the "gay panic" defense, where

Please see GAY KILLINGS on Page 7

Fulton judge shot in apparent domestic dispute

Police officials say little about relationship between judge, alleged assailant

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

An acquaintance allegedly shot a Fulton County Superior Court judge twice in her Morningside neighborhood driveway Monday and hours later surrendered to police, authorities said.

Judge Cynthia Wright remains in good condition at Grady Memorial Hospital, a hospital spokesperson said Wednesday.

The Atlanta Police Department and court officials are saying little about the relationship between Wright, 48, and her alleged assailant — Marcia Gibson, 50 — other than the dispute was "personal" and not related to court matters.

"All I can say is that it's a domestic dispute," said Sgt. John Quigley, an Atlanta Police Department spokesperson.

Lynne Borsuk, a defense attorney, accompanied Gibson when she turned herself in about nine hours after the shooting, which took place shortly before 8 a.m. Borsuk said only that "the women knew each other, and there are a lot of issues involved."

Borsuk described Gibson as "very distraught," and said "there are probably some psychiatric issues that we'll need to look at."

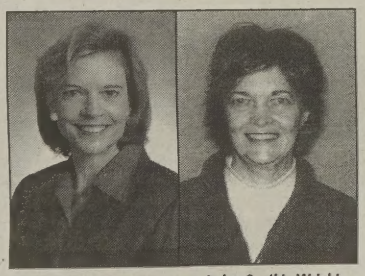
Gibson is "a professional businesswoman who works for a major company and lives in DeKalb County," Borsuk said. She declined further comment.

Police charged Gibson with aggravated assault. She appeared in court March 18 and her arraignment is scheduled for March 25, according to Rebecca Keel, a Fulton County deputy district attorney.

Borsuk said she expected to request bond for Gibson during the March 25 court appearance. But prosecutors would oppose that move, Keel said.

Wright's neighbors Stephanie and Sanford Salzinger told police they heard a verbal conflict between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. on March 17, according to Fulton County officials. Stephanie Salzinger placed a call to 911 at 7:57 a.m. about shots being fired.

Wright was hit twice, collapsing her lung, according to Fulton County Superior Court Judge Jackson T. Bedford. She was rushed to Grady and stabilized, but continued bleeding internally and after her blood pressure dropped, she was rushed to surgery around 1 p.m. on Monday, Bedford said.



Fulton County Superior Court **Judge Cynthia Wright** (left) was shot in what police are calling a domestic dispute. Marcia Gibson, an apparent acquaintance of Wright, was charged in the shooting. (Wright photo courtesy Fulton County Superior Court; Gibson photo courtesy Atlanta Police Department)

"I was about to go in to see her," Bedford said. "They were allowing family members and myself to visit her. And then they wheeled her past me, going to surgery. She had all these tubes coming out of her, and she looked like someone had drug her behind a truck."

Please see JUDGE SHOT on Page 7

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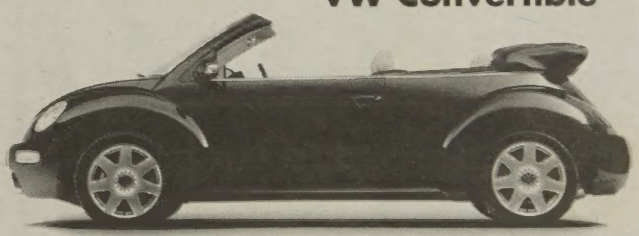

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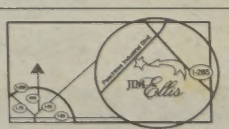

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local news

Gay Chamber of Commerce honors business leaders

ATLANTA — Members of the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, formerly known as the Greater Atlanta Business Coalition, recently selected the recipients of the chamber's 2003 awards. Eight of the nine winners received awards March 12 at a ceremony attended by more than 180 people in the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel Crown Room, according to Shirley Adams, secretary of the group. "The turnout was lovely," Adams said. Mayor Shirley Franklin could not attend the dinner to receive her award for Individual Community Supporter of the Year, Adams said. The ceremony included a sit-down dinner, a speech by Out magazine Editor-in-Chief Brendan Lemon and videotaped remarks from U.S. Rep. Denise Majette (D-Ga.). AGLCC members voted on the awards based on the nominees' "business acumen" and community contributions, Adams said. AGLCC's board and president selected two of the awards. In addition to Franklin, the 2003 award winners are Red Chair Restaurant & Lounge, Business of the Year; Ron Russell of McKelvey & Russell, CPA, Businessman of the Year; Cindy Abel of bizvox Marketing and Communications, Businesswoman of the Year; Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative, Non-Profit of the Year; Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, Business Community Supporter of the Year; Shirley Adams, Member of the Year; AGLCC board member Pat Viohl, President's Award; and past AGLCC President Gary D. Himes, Special Appreciation Award from the Board of Directors. AGLCC's next meeting is on April 9 with guest speaker Julie Gedro, president of Quiet Tiger, Inc.

Gary D. Himes, president of the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce from 2001-2003, received a special appreciation award from the group's board of directors this year. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

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Retired lawmaker honored for stand on hate crime bill

ATLANTA — Former Georgia state Rep. Dan Ponder, a Republican from Donalsonville, was selected along with former Gov. Roy Barnes, a Democrat, to receive the 2003 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award, an honor bestowed upon leaders who risked their careers by holding fast to their principles. Ponder gave a passionate speech to the state House in 2000 that is largely credited with gaining needed support from fellow Republicans for the passage of Georgia's hate crime law that year. In the speech, Ponder said he was the "least likely" to support the bill, given his conservative Southern upbringing, but he related a personal tale of his boyhood caregiver, who was black, which made him rethink his stance on the importance of hate crimes for protection for all people. Ponder also advocated protecting gays in the law. "Who would choose to be gay, and risk alienation from family, friends, and coworkers?" he asked. "With this bill, we are trying to correct man's inhumanity to man." Harry Knox, who served as executive director of Georgia Equality at the time, praised Ponder for taking the personal risk. "It certainly changed the entire tone of conversation about the bill in the last hours." he said.

Former Georgia Equality head takes national post

NEW YORK — The Freedom To Marry Collaborative, a national organization that advocates for full marriage rights for gay men and lesbians, named Harry Knox, former executive director of Georgia Equality, as its program director at the beginning of 2003. Knox, who left Atlanta to be the development director for Equality Florida in January 2002, said he left Florida for New York a year later to help advance the movement for marriage equality. "I am very excited about working with the Freedom To Marry Collaborative because I believe marriage is the defining issue in our movement right now," Knox said. Founded by Evan Wolfson, former director of the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund's marriage project, the collaborative has a threefold program to attain its goal of winning the freedom to marry in at least one state during the next five years, Knox said. Through a comprehensive education and communication plan, FTMC will attempt "to change the hearts and minds of voters about the need for change around marriage equality," Knox said. To accomplish that, FTMC targeted five states where "the climate is more right" for gay-friendly legislation to pass or where court cases are likely to surface, he said. Those states include Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, California and New York. FTMC will also consult local and regional organizations within the selected five states and plans to re-grant money through FTMC to partner groups, Knox said.

Christopher Seely

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New York, NY 10011
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www.freedomtomarry.org

local news

City leaders hammering out benefits ordinance

BENEFITS ORDINANCE, continued from Page 3

think [a waiver for small companies] is necessary," said Cynthia Goldstein, senior contract compliance officer for the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, which monitors the EBO there.

Some 93 percent of the companies that comply with San Francisco's EBO have fewer than 500 employees, according to a five-year report on the law released by the city in November.

Enrollment in domestic partner medical benefits programs tends to be low — about 3 percent of employees — and since most small companies pass on the bulk of costs for benefits, especially for dependents, directly to the employees, costs to the companies are minimal, Goldstein said.

But San Francisco's ordinance does include other waivers not incorporated in the Atlanta measure vetoed by Campbell. The San Francisco EBO applies only to businesses with more than $5,000 in city contracts annually, and it allows contractors to offer domestic partners a "cash equivalent" if they are unable to provide the benefits.

The San Francisco law also allows exemptions "primarily where a contractor is the sole provider of a needed good or service, or where there is an emergency that threatens the public health or safety," according to an overview prepared by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

The EBO hasn't hurt San Francisco's ability to attract contractors or the city's bottom line, Goldstein said.

Some other cities with EBOs, like Seattle, allow companies to self-certify that they offer equal benefits, but San Francisco takes a more intensive approach, with five full-time employees and an annual budget of about $400,000 devoted to administering and monitoring compliance with the EBO, she said.

"That may sound like a lot of money, but when you think about the $1 billion of city contracts that takes place each year, it is a quite a small drop in the bucket," Goldstein said.

San Francisco's EBO also has "no negative effect" on San Francisco's female and minority affirmative action program, Goldstein said.

The first proposed statewide equal benefits law, currently pending in the California State Assembly, also does not exempt small or minority-led companies.

'Very successful' in San Francisco

Since it was enacted in 1997, San Francisco's ordinance has been "very successful in accomplishing its goals here and around the country," Goldstein said.

According to the five-year report, which Goldstein prepared, only 500 employers in the United States offered DP benefits when San Francisco enacted its law. Now, at least 4,500 companies offer the benefits "with over 75 percent [of those] doing so in compliance with the city's contracting requirements."

Since its enactment, San Francisco's landmark ordinance withstood major legal challenges, according to Jennifer Pizer, a senior staff attorney with Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, which joined the city in defending the measure.

In response to a lawsuit brought by the Air Transit Association, an airline industry trade association, a lower court ruled in 1999 that airline companies were exempt from the San Francisco ordinance's provisions on health and disability insurance and pensions, but were bound by the "non-economic" sections of the ordinance.

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco later upheld the concept of the city's ordinance in the case.

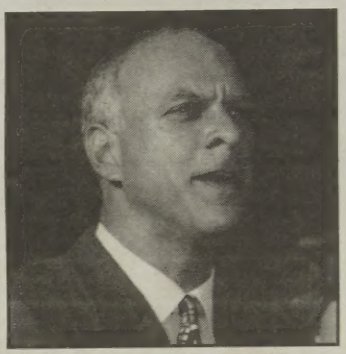
"The suit concluded with the 9th Circuit saying very clearly that ordinances like this are in the proud tradition of American civil rights laws," Pizer said.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals also heard last week an appeal in the final remaining legal challenge to San Francisco's EBO, filed by S.D. Meyers, a company that claimed religious objections among its reasons for not wanting to offer domestic partner benefits.

S.D. Meyers has lost at every court level to date, with a ruling on this latest appeal expected in the next two months, Pizer said.

Decisions from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals don't set precedent for other circuits, such as the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, which includes Atlanta.

But Greg Nevins, a staff attorney with Lambda Legal's southern regional office here, said the 9th Circuit rulings could still carry weight.



In one of his last acts as Atlanta mayor, **Bill Campbell** vetoed an equal benefits ordinance hastily passed by the City Council during its last meeting of 2001. Campbell said he supported the concept, but not the way in which the law was drafted.

"Even if it's not directly controlling here, it makes it really clear that there is nothing to challenge," said Nevins, who has consulted with Woolard on including an EBO in the living wage bill.

Other Atlanta gay rights measures — including offering domestic partner benefits to city employees — faced legal challenges fought all the way to the Georgia Supreme Court, but Nevins said he "wouldn't necessarily anticipate a challenge" to a local EBO.

Still, when Atlanta's original EBO passed in 2001, the Southeastern Legal Foundation — the conservative legal organization which backed the DP benefits challenge — vowed to serve as a "watchdog" on the issue.

"In general, we don't believe society should put its moral stamp on domestic partnerships of this nature," Phil Kent, president of the foundation, said at the time.

Fulton man killed after gay pick-up

GAY KILLINGS, continued from Page 4

someone accused of a crime against a gay victim claims his actions were justified because of unwanted sexual advances.

New case involved 'pick-up and murder'

As the Fulton District Attorney's office prepares for the symposium, tentatively slated for February 2004, prosecutors must also prepare to try the David Cook case, which could present challenges similar to the Dabarran killing.

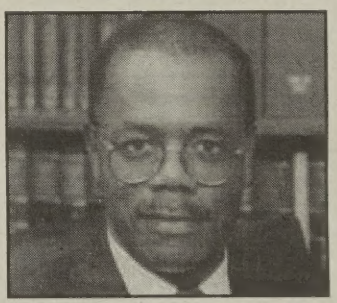
Cook allegedly picked up Hall and McCloud near Peachtree and 7th streets in Midtown and took them back to his Lakeside Drive apartment in Buckhead either on the premise of a sexual encounter, or a sexual encounter actually did take place, according to Friedly.

Sometime after security cameras show all three arriving at 1 a.m., Hall and McCloud allegedly bound Cook's hand and feet, stabbed him 30 times and slit his throat, Friedly said.

"It's an all-too-common pick-up and murder scenario," he said.

It is not known whether Cook self-identified as gay, "because he's not here to tell us," Friedly said.

Hall and McCloud will be tried together and are both being held in Fulton County Jail without bond, according to Friedly. It is not known whether the two identify as gay.



'Gay victims must receive equal treatment as crime victims,' Fulton County District Attorney **Paul Howard** said last month after a man charged with killing a co-worker was acquitted.

Friendly declined to speculate whether the pair would present a gay panic defense similar to the one seen in Dabarran's case.

"We feel that we have a very strong case and we are prepared for any contingency in prosecuting these defendants," Friedly said.

The case has been assigned to Fulton County Superior Court Judge Jerry W. Baxter.

MORE INFO

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Shooting victim remains in hospital

JUDGE SHOT, continued from Page 4

Bedford said Wright was "an extremely private person," but "a great friend. I call her my drinking buddy, although neither of us really drinks. But she's the kind of person who can just go get a beer with you after a long legal conference. She's the best."

Dr. Barbara Rubin, a lesbian and court psychologist for Fulton County Superior Court, said she was deeply saddened about the attack on the well-respected judge.

Wright hired Rubin to serve in Fulton County's family court division five years ago, according to Rubin.

"She has a keen understanding of what troubled families need," Rubin said.

Wright, appointed by then-Gov. Zell Miller to the Superior Court in November 1996 after serving as his legal counsel, was elected to her first four-year term in 1998. She ran unopposed for reelection last year.

Wright has not handled any high-profile or high-security risk cases recently, according to Fulton court officials. But she has presided over the divorce of Atlanta Braves outfielder Chipper Jones and the liquor license revocation of the Gold Club.

Miller credited Wright with writing the state law that established the popular lottery he advocated as governor.

"I love her like a daughter and she served me so very well as my first legal counsel in the governor's office," Miller said in a prepared statement. "She is very intelligent with a great work ethic, and she has made a great Superior Court judge as I knew she would."

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national news

Bush re-nominates general criticized in gay murder

WASHINGTON — President Bush last week once again asked the U.S. Senate to approve the promotion of a general whom gay activists say failed to quell anti-gay harassment at an Army base prior to the gay-bashing murder there of a private by two of his fellow soldiers. Bush asked the Senate to ratify Major General Robert T. Clark, former commanding general at Fort Campbell, Ky., to lieutenant general, the Army's second highest rank. Last year, the Senate Armed Services Committee declined to act on the Clark nomination following opposition by gay, civil liberties and military watchdog groups. The groups expressed concern that Clark's inattention to widespread incidents of anti-gay harassment at Fort Campbell contributed to the atmosphere that led to the murder of Private Barry Winchell. Groups opposing the nomination include the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, People for the American Way, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Organization for Women, and the Michigan Triangle Foundation.

Major General **Robert T. Clark** served as commanding general at Fort Campbell, Ky., when Private Barry Winchell was beaten to death in an anti-gay attack. (Photo courtesy U.S. Army Web site)

N.J. judge allows two moms on birth certificate

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — A lesbian couple can both be listed as parents on the birth certificate of the baby they're expecting in May, a judge ruled. State officials said it was the first time that two women who were both physically tied to an unborn child had tried to make sure they were both listed on the birth certificate. One woman is carrying the child and her partner provided the egg, and they plan to raise the child together. The ruling issued March 11 by Sussex County Family Court Judge James A. Farber means the unidentified women will share a financial obligation to the child as soon as it is born, and if one parent dies, the other will immediately have custody. Analysts said the case is unusual because when lesbian couples have a child together, the woman who delivers the baby is usually named as the mother on the birth certificate. Her partner must then adopt the child because she is not genetically related.

Fla. apartment complex accused of gay ban

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Aided by the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, a gay couple filed suit March 10 in Palm Beach County Court against an apartment complex a policy of leasing only to married couples. "Housing is one of our most basic needs, and anti-gay bigotry shouldn't determine where people can live," Greg Nevins, the Lambda attorney handling the case, said in a press release from the gay legal group. Fred Sternbach filled out a rental application at Roya Colonial Apartments last year while his house was being built. He also listed Stephen Miller's name and wrote "partner" to describe their 16-year relationship, according to the Associated Press. But the property manager told him the complex rents only to married couples, according to the civil suit. The suit alleges the complex violates a 13-year-old county law that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation and marital status.

N.C. county rejects domestic partner benefits

DURHAM, N.C. — Providing benefits to domestic partners of Durham County employees would violate a 19th century state law against adultery and fornication, according to County Manager Mike Ruffin, although the city of Durham already offers the benefits. Ruffin said the county could not comply with a request from the advocacy group Employees for Domestic Partners Benefits to offer the benefits, the Durham-Herald Sun reported. But activists derided the explanation as a "smoke screen." "I don't think the 1805 law is relevant in this situation," said Jo Wyrick, executive director of Equality NC, a statewide gay political group. "It is just a gag order." Supporters planned a press conference for March 20.

Colo. judge rules for teen hate crime victim

DENVER (AP) — A federal judge said an attack on a gay teenager was a "damnable" hate crime and awarded him $1.22 million in damages on March 13. Kyle Skyock, 18, was found along U.S. 6 on Feb. 11, 2001, near Rifle after a night of heavy drinking with four other youths. During a hearing before U.S. District Court Judge John Kane to determine damages in a civil lawsuit, Skyock described how four boys kicked, beat and hit him with a baseball bat. "I didn't think I was going to make it," Skyock said. Comatose for three days, Skyock initially told police he couldn't remember what happened. Investigators looked into criminal charges after a teenager on a school bus bragged about beating "The Fag," but prosecutors later refused to file criminal charges against his alleged attackers. Skyock's family reached an $11,000 out-of-court settlement with two of his attackers. Last week's judgment was entered against brothers Bill and Brian June and their mother, Jane Jennings.

From staff and wire reports

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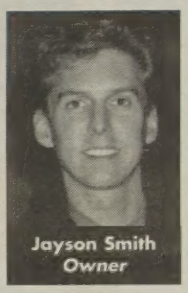

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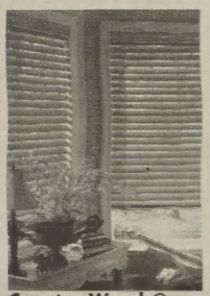

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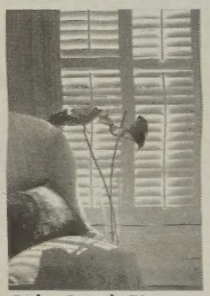

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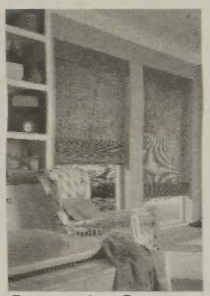

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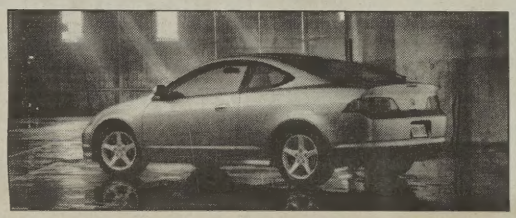

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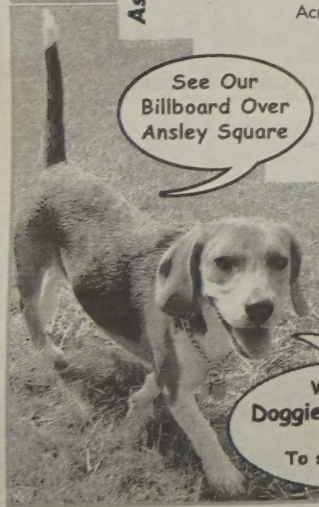

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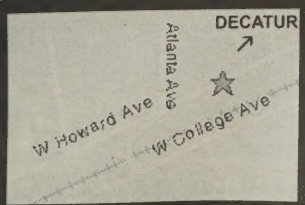

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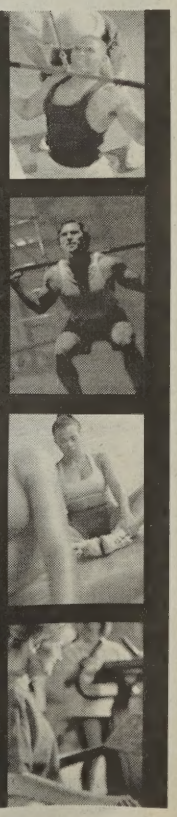

international news

Gay U.K. police commander sues over kiss-and-tell pieces

Brian Paddick, the most senior openly gay law enforcement officer in the United Kingdom, sued a newspaper chain over articles interviewing his former partner. (Photo courtesy BBC)

LONDON — Scotland Yard commander Brian Paddick is suing Associated Newspapers for breach of privacy over two "kiss-and-tell" articles in the Mail on Sunday last year, the Guardian reported. Paddick is not claiming a specific amount. Paddick's former partner, James Renolleau, 37, a former male model, alleged in a story last March that Paddick smoked cannabis regularly and allowed the drug to be stored in the flat they shared. Paddick denied the allegations and an eight-month investigation by authorities cleared him of any serious wrongdoing. Renolleau also accused Paddick of having frequent casual gay sex encounters and visiting gay saunas. All the allegations were denied. Lawyers acting for Paddick believe that the articles contain material which is a clear breach of his privacy. Paddick, the country's most senior openly gay officer, had to leave his post as borough commander of Lambeth after the allegations of drug taking.

Russia bans gay and HIV-positive soldiers

MOSCOW — The Russian government has approved new medical examination rules for entry to the Russian army. The changes, made last month, mandate that gay or HIV-positive people will not be allowed to sign up, the Gay Financial Network reported last week. Moreover, existing soldiers who don't meet the new criteria may get thrown out, reports the Russian newspaper Rossiiskaya Gazeta. The chair of the Russian Defense Ministry's Central Military Medical Commission, Major General Valery Kulikov, said the rules "set higher requirements on the health of conscripts and servicemen." The new rules, which become effective July 1, bar drug addicts, drug users and HIV-positive people from active military service. In addition, the army has included "untraditional sexual orientation" among a list of personal, emotional and behavioral disorders which preclude men from signing up.

Gay teacher, 70, banned from Catholic schools

GERALDTON, Australia — A Geraldton teacher with nearly 40 years experience has been banned from Catholic schools because he lives with a man, the West Australian reported. Tweed Harris works as a relief teacher in six primary schools in Geraldton and has worked in primary schools and kindergartens for 38 years. But because he is gay, the Catholic Education Office has told him he cannot teach in any of its schools. Harris, 70, said no school had complained about his sexual orientation until he published his autobiography last month. In it, he said he had been gay his whole life and married to a man for seven years. Catholic Education director Therese Temby said Harris' open gay relationship put him in breach of his employment contract. The conditions of employment for all teachers in Catholic schools say they must follow a manner of life and stated beliefs in keeping with Catholic Church teachings. "Mr. Harris is certainly a practicing homosexual in a public forum," Temby said. "That is not a manner of life in line with Catholic teaching."

Tanzanians protest visit by gay U.S. tourist group

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania — Hundreds of Muslims in Dar es Salaam on Saturday participated in a peaceful demonstration organized to protest the visit of gay tourists from the United States which has, however, been cancelled, The Guardian reported. Speaking at the end of the demonstration, Sheikh Mussa Kileo, attacked all those who engaged in homosexuality and said they deserve a death sentence. Sheikh Kileo said that people who supported and those who planned the tour were also subject to a similar judgment. It was reported earlier that the Minister for Natural Resources & Tourism, Zakia Meghji, had stated that, in principle, the government had no objection to the visit of the gay tourists. At least 100 gay tourists from America planned to visit the country this year for a one-month tour, starting from last Monday. But, the tour has been cancelled. Press reports said the tour has been re-scheduled for January.

Welsh Tory stands down over anti-gay comments

LONDON — A Conservative Assembly candidate stood down last week after writing racist and bigoted material on a public Web site, NewsWales.com reported. John Jenkins, the Conservative candidate for Llanelli, described himself as homophobic, and wrote: "I cannot convince myself of anything other than homosexuality being a medical mental condition... they need medical attention." In a statement, the Welsh Conservative Party said Jenkins' "remarks are not the views of the Conservative Party and are totally unacceptable. His resignation has been offered to the director of the Welsh Conservative Party and duly accepted." A right-wing Conservative group criticized the treatment of Jenkins, Gay.com UK reported. "Although Mr. Jenkins may have taken a rather outspoken line, the fact is that so-called gay rights and the nonsense of gay adoption has never been part of Conservative philosophy," said CDA chair Mike Smith, chair of the Conservative Democratic Alliance.

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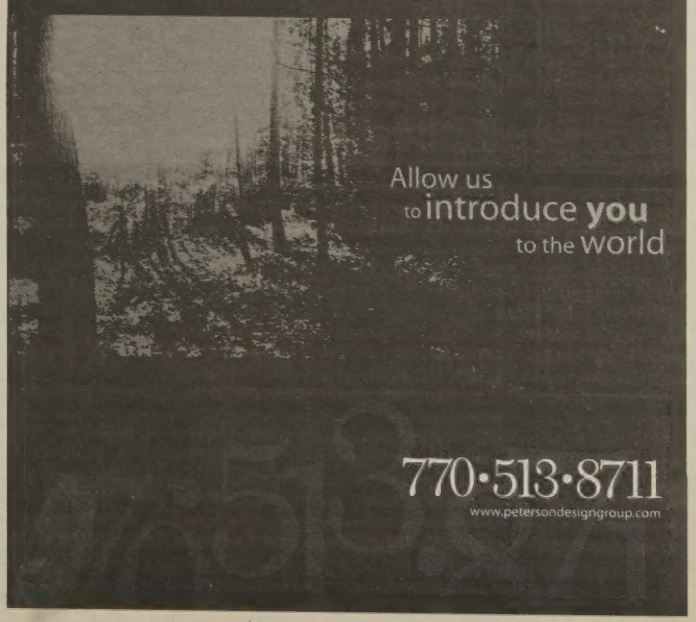

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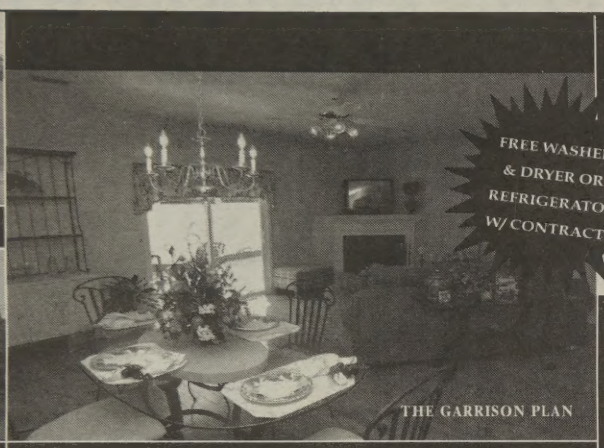

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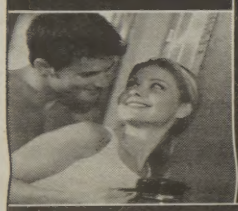

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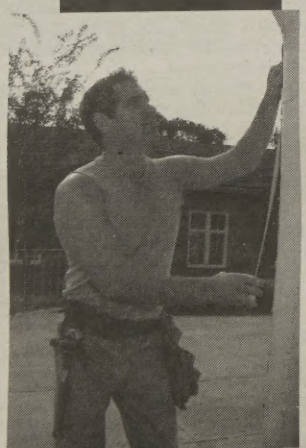

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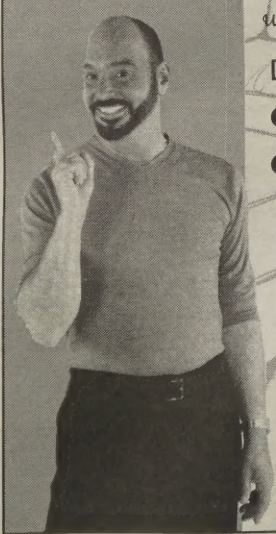

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national news

Texas case could provide civil rights victory

Both sides of sodomy case prepare for arguments before U.S. Supreme Court next week; ruling expected by June

By RHONDA SMITH

WASHINGTON — A high stakes legal battle that started with the arrest of two gay men in a suburban Houston apartment more than four years ago finally reaches its pinnacle next week when attorneys on both sides make their case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

If the court sides with John Geddes Lawrence and Tyrone Garner, it would deliver a substantial victory to gay civil rights activists. If a majority of the nine justices side with Texas prosecutors, they will uphold same-gender sodomy prohibitions and strengthen gay rights opponents in a time already tilting toward the politically conservative.

Gay activists hope a victory would crush same-sex sodomy prohibitions in Texas and other states; opponents say the court would embolden attacks on the institution of marriage.

"Morality is a fluid concept, and public opinion regarding moral issues may change over time, but what has not changed is the understanding that government may require adherence to certain widely accepted moral standards and sanction deviation from those standards, so long as it does not interfere with constitutionally protected liberties," Harris County District Attorney Charles A. Rosenthal Jr. wrote in a 21-page brief recently submitted to the court about the case, John Geddes Lawrence and Tyron Garner v. State of Texas.

Sheriff's deputies arrested Lawrence and Garner on Sept. 17, 1998, after entering an apartment and finding the two engaging in consensual, anal sex. They were arrested and charged with "deviant homosexual" conduct, a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $500.

The Texas law under which the men were charged, Section 21.06, bans intimate relations, including oral and anal sex, between consenting adults of the same gender.

Gay men **Tyrone Garner** and **John Geddes Lawrence** were arrested in a Houston apartment in 1998 for engaging in consensual sex. Their case reaches the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday. (Photo by AP)

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case during a 60-minute presentation. At issue are three questions posed by attorneys for the two men: Do sodomy laws that only apply to consensual same-sex intimacy violate the men's 14th Amendment right to equal protection of the laws? Did the men's criminal convictions for adult consensual sexual contact in the home violate their vital interests in liberty and privacy protected by the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment? Should Bowers v. Hardwick be overruled?

Ga. case provides clues

In its 1986 decision in Bowers v. Hardwick, the high court ruled 5-4 on a similar sodomy case that the U.S. Constitution does not protect same-gender sex, even in the privacy of a home and between consenting adults.

In that case, then-Georgia Attorney General Michael Bowers defended the state's sodomy statute in the case of Michael Hardwick, a gay Atlanta man arrested while engaging in sodomy in his own bedroom after police entered his home to serve a warrant on an unrelated matter.

While Georgia's law did not distinguish between same-sex and opposite-sex acts, the case and the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision upholding the statute focused on gay issues. "To hold that the act of homosexual sodomy is somehow protected as a fundamental right would be to cast aside millennia of moral teaching," Chief Justice Warren Burger wrote in his concurring opinion in the case.

Only three of the nine judges who ruled on Bowers v. Hardwick — Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, and associate justices John Paul Stevens and Sandra Day O'Connor — remain on the bench today.

Proponents of overturning Texas' "homosexual conduct" law said this week that they have refined the arguments gay civil rights advocates made before the high court 17 years ago. Besides, they argue, society's views about gay men and lesbians have changed since the court ruled in that case.

"In any argument, you're trying to get the justices to connect to the human issue, and what this law really means in the everyday lives of gay people," said Patricia Logue, a senior counsel in Chicago for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund,

Please see SODOMY CASE on Page 23

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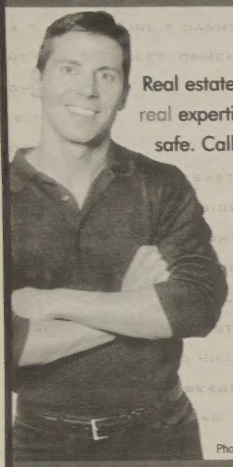

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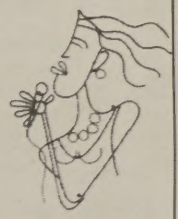

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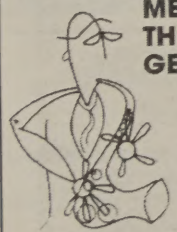

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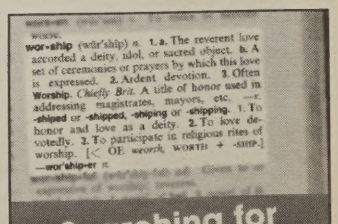

wor•ship (wûr'ship) n. 1. a. The reverent love accorded a deity, idol, or sacred object. b. A set of ceremonies or prayers by which this love is expressed. 2. Ardent devotion. 3. Often **Worship**. *Chiefly Brit.* A title of honor used in addressing magistrates, mayors, etc. —v. **-shiped** or **-shipped**, **-shiping** or **-shipping**. 1. To honor and love as a deity. 2. To love devotedly. 3. To participate in religious rites of worship. [< OE *weorth*, WORTH + -SHIP.] —wor'ship•er n.

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national news

Expensive AIDS drug threatens subsidy programs

ADAP officials say patients could be turned away

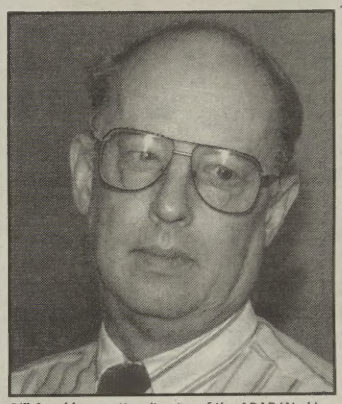
By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — new AIDS drug that promises to save the lives of AIDS patients who no longer benefit from existing drugs is so expensive that some states may not be able to offer it to low-income people who lack medical insurance, according to state health officials.

News of the unusually high price for the drug Fuzeon placed a greater urgency on efforts by state health officials and AIDS activists to push drug companies to lower the price of all AIDS drugs, activists said.

The Fuzeon pricing issue also prompted the U.S. House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy & Human Resources to make inquires into whether the price is justified, given that the federal government paid part of the cost to develop it.

State health officials and AIDS activists were startled last month when the pharmaceutical company F. Hoffmann-La Roche announced it would charge $20,000 in Europe for a year's supply of Fuzeon for each patient to whom it is prescribed. The European price of the drug, which is hailed as the most important medicine to be developed for people with HIV in the past several years, is more than double the price of the next costliest AIDS drug.



Bill Arnold, executive director of the ADAP Working Group, said the AIDS drug Fuzeon is expected to cost $20,000 or more. (File photo by Clint Steib)

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration approved Fuzeon March 14 for use in the U.S. The price is expected to be roughly the same as in Europe, Hoffmann-LaRoche officials told the Associated Press.

"Adding a drug this expensive would create a great challenge," said Michael Montgomery, director of the California Office of AIDS.

Montgomery said the California AIDS Drug Assistance Program, already struggling under the state's large budget deficit, would also need to consider limiting the number of ADAP clients who can receive Fuzeon.

The combination drug doses subsidized by ADAP programs in most states currently costs between $9,000 and $12,000 per patient, although some could be considerably higher, according to Bill Arnold, executive director of the ADAP Working Group, which monitors ADAP programs.

With Fuzeon expected to cost at least $20,000 or more in the U.S., the total cost of drug therapy that includes Fuzeon could run between $30,000 and $35,000, he said.

Officials with state AIDS offices told the Wall Street Journal the high cost of Fuzeon could force them to make agonizing decisions over whether to drop other important drugs from their approved drug list to afford Fuzeon. Another possibility is to add Fuzeon to their list but stop taking on new ADAP clients once budgets become depleted, officials said.

Fuzeon, also known as T-20, is the first of a series of newly developed drugs called fusion inhibitors, which prevent the AIDS virus from fusing to the body's healthy cells.

"I know about six people who told me Fuzeon saved their lives," Arnold said. He said the six were among a group of people with HIV in the U.S. who took the drug as part of an experimental drug trial conducted during the past two years.

Officials with Hoffmann-La Roche cite an unusually difficult manufacturing process, which requires more than 100 chemical reactions, as the reason for the high cost of producing the drug.

Jim Drischol, a gay Republican activist whom President Bush named to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, said the high price expected for Fuzeon drew more attention to drug pricing issues. Drischol said other prominent AIDS service providers were considering joining the AIDS Health Care Foundation in pulling out of the Working Group.

"A fatal weakness in ADAP advocacy through the Working Group is the failure to address the issue of artificially high and ever-rising drug prices," said Michael Weinstein, the AIDS Health Care Foundation's president.

Arnold said he agrees that the price of Fuzeon and other AIDS drugs is too high, but he said the complex factors that go into drug pricing and discounting practices for the ADAP program make it difficult to determine whether the companies are engaging in price gouging.

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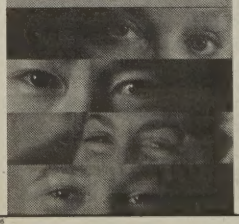
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Egyptian court sentences 21 men for 'debauchery'

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ordered the retrial of 50 men arrested in a police raid on a Nile River gay party boat. (Photo by Markus Schreiber/AP)

CAIRO (AP) — A court sentenced 21 men to three years in jail March 15 for "debauchery" in a case condemned by human rights groups as persecution of gays. Another 29 men were acquitted in the retrial, which began in July following an order by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The defendants were among 52 men arrested in a May 2001 police raid on a gay Nile River party boat. The court initially sentenced 23 to jail terms ranging from one to five years. The rest were acquitted. Mubarak last May ordered 50 of the men — including the 29 acquitted — to be retried, annulling the original verdicts. Human rights groups denounced the trials and condemned Egypt for its intolerance of gays. "The Egyptian authorities must release immediately and unconditionally anyone imprisoned for their actual or perceived sexual orientation," Amnesty International said in a written statement. Some of the defendants are expected to appeal the verdicts.

Three men held for trial in slaying of trans teen in Calif.

FREMONT, Calif. (AP) — Three men were ordered Tuesday to stand trial for allegedly murdering transgendered teen Gwen Araujo. Judge Kenneth Mark Burr ordered Jason Michael Cazares, 22, Jose Antonio Merel, 23, and Michael William Magidson, 22, held for trial after ruling there is probable cause to support charges that the three killed Araujo in a hate crime. Araujo was slain in October 2002 after it was discovered that she was anatomically male. Jaron Chase Nabors, 19, who was at the party the night Araujo was killed, was initially charged with murder but pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter after agreeing to testify against his friends. Defense attorney Tony Serra claimed that finding out that they were deceived about Araujo's gender provoked the men into a crime of passion. Prosecutor Connie Campbell countered that the three defendants killed in cold blood. "They took their own perverted view of justice, weighed the facts, put it on a scale and determined that their egos were worth more than Lida's life," she said.

Appeals court upholds denying trans prisoner certain care

DENVER (AP) — A transgendered woman serving a 48-year prison sentence for burglary and sexual assault lost her appeal of an order denying hormonal or surgical treatments. On March 13, the appeals court upheld a ruling that the prison system did not have to provide such care to MaryKay Lynn Condit, sentenced by her birth name of Paul Lynn Condit. Condit sought reconsideration of her sentence, saying the Department of Corrections failed to administer proper care for gender dysphoria, including allowing her to live as a woman and receive hormones and gender reassignment surgery. A trial judge rejected the motion in April 1999. The appeals court also rejected Condit's argument that her original guilty plea was invalid because her attorney said disclosing her gender dysphoria would result in sex offender treatment.

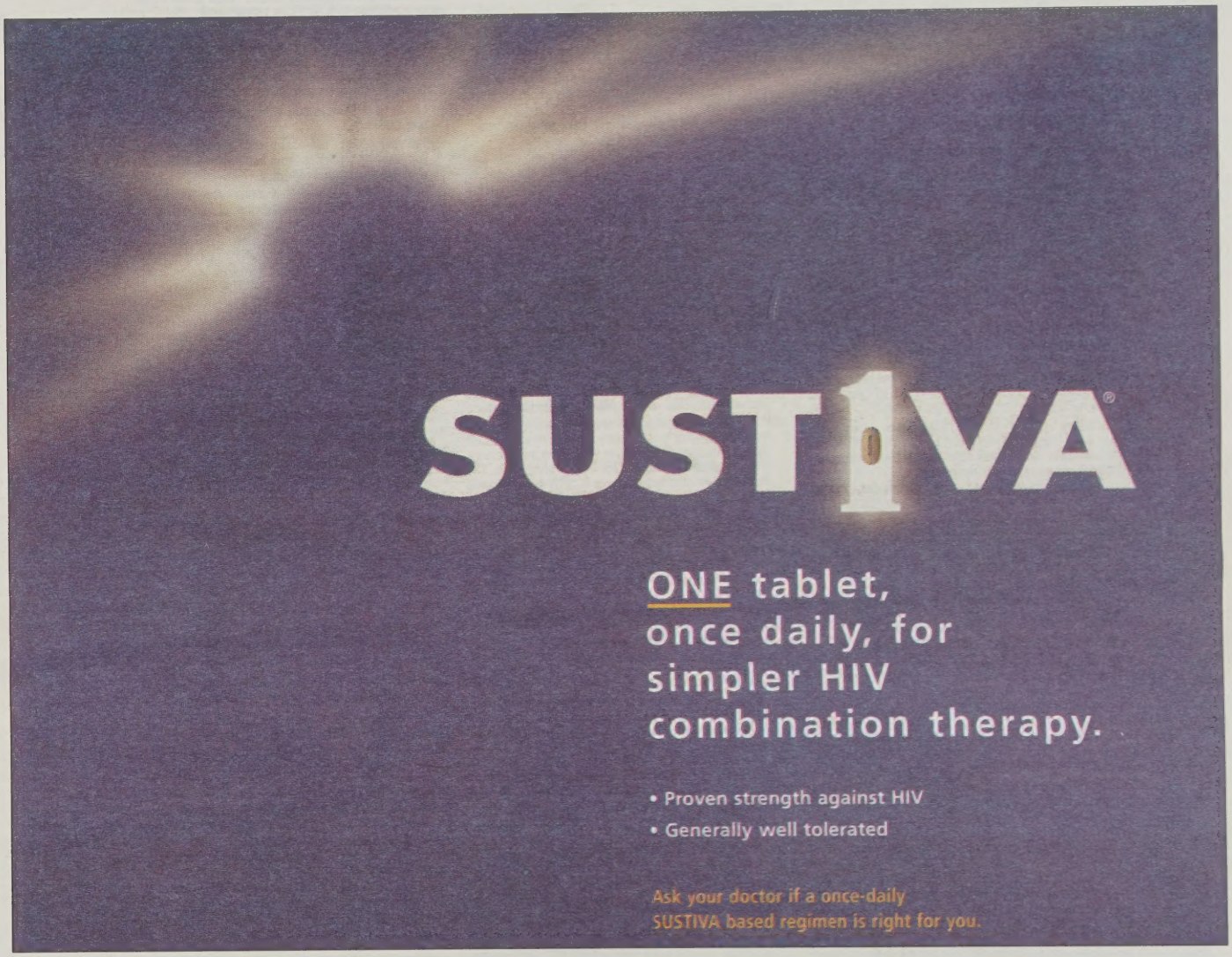
Gay activist sought in stabbing found dead in Pa. lake

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — The body of gay activist Michael Pierson, who went missing for six weeks after his lover was stabbed, was found March 14 in a retaining pond on a golf course. Pierson, 40, suffered a single stab wound to the chest, according to the coroner's report, which ruled the death a homicide. The golf course is about a half-mile from the roadway where Pierson's partner of several months, Kenneth Stephens, said Pierson stabbed him on Jan. 28. Police charged Pierson with the stabbing, based on Stephens' account, but they never found him to serve the papers. A search of the area that night proved fruitless. "I don't believe police did a thorough search," said Lee LaChette, a friend of Pierson's. Stephens could not be reached for comment. State police said he was still in the area, but wouldn't say if they had talked to him since Pierson's body was found.

Calif. trans murder suspect won't testify in own defense

VENTURA, Calif. — Attorneys representing a transgendered former prostitute in a murder trial rested their case March 12 after the defendant chose not to testify on her own behalf, according to the Ventura County Star. Jamie Cid chose at the last minute to heed the advice of her attorneys not to take the stand. Cid, 31, pleaded not guilty to killing and robbing Jack Jamar inside the 78-year-old's home. The defense argued the beating was self defense after Jamar tried to rape Cid, who was working as a prostitute. Prosecutors said Cid planned to take Jamar's wallet before she went into his house for a paid tryst. Defense witnesses included a psychologist who testified about Cid's gender identity. "A person with transgender identity disorder does not have a choice," Susan Lesnik, a Ventura psychologist, told the jury.

From staff and wire reports



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Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. Mild to moderate rash is another common side effect. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few reports of suicide but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam) or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking. Women should not become pregnant or breast-feed while taking SUSTIVA.

Please see important information about SUSTIVA on next page.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

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ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

Please also read the section **"MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."**

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (*see* ***Can children take SUSTIVA?***).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- **Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- **Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- **have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis.** Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- **have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, **it is very important to:**

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and non-prescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort *(hypericum perforatum)*, an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

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- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
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- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Methadone

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

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Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

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This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at http://www.sustiva.com or call 1-800-426-7644.

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T4-B001B-11-02

6495-07
Revised April 2002

national news

Pro-gay GOP congressman to enter Florida Senate race

Foley could face 'gay-baiting' in contentious primary

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

TALLAHASSEE — U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.), a longtime supporter of gay rights legislation, is said to be the potential front-runner for the Republican nomination for a U.S. Senate seat currently held by Democrat Bob Graham.

Graham is expected to create a mad scramble by both Republicans and Democrats to fill his seat if he runs for president next year, which he says he intends to do instead of seeking re-election to the Senate.

Mainstream press accounts in Florida indicate that Foley, one of the lead co-sponsors of a gay rights bill known as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, or ENDA, will face fierce competition for the GOP nomination for Graham's seat, and a heated campaign could subject him to attacks by anti-gay conservatives.

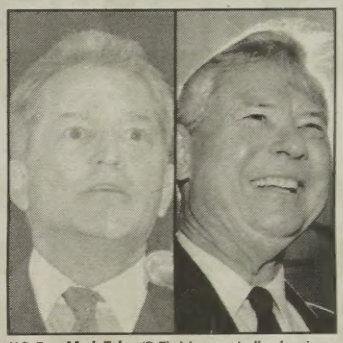
"He would make an outstanding senator," said Mark Mead, communications director for Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay GOP organization based in Washington, D.C. "I think he could win that race against anyone, although he would have a tough race against Graham."

Several pro-gay Democrats are also expected to enter the race if Graham chooses not to run. Among them are State Rep. Peter Deutsch, whose district includes Wilton Manor, the gay enclave in Fort Lauderdale; and Rep. Alcee Hastings, whose district includes many of South Florida's African-American neighborhoods.

Deutsch and Hastings each received a 100 percent rating on gay issues by the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group.

Foley received an HRC rating of 83 after voting "wrong" on one out of six test votes used by HRC to measure support by House members on gay and AIDS issues. Foley voted against an amendment by D.C. Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) seeking to reverse an effort by House members to overturn a Washington, D.C., Human Rights Commission ruling ordering the Boy Scouts to reinstate two ousted gay scout leaders. Norton's amendment failed.

The HRC rating guide shows Foley voted in support of the group's positions on five other key issues, including a vote against an amendment seeking to prohibit D.C. from implementing its domestic partners law. Anti-gay religious right groups expressed outrage that Republican House members joined their Democratic colleagues in supporting the D.C. domestic partners law.



U.S. Rep. **Mark Foley** (R-Fla.) is reportedly planning to run for **Bob Graham**'s Senate seat if he continues with his plans to run for the Democratic presidential nomination next year. (Foley photo by Clint Steib; Graham photo by AP)

Gay Democratic activists say Foley would likely face more criticism for his gay-supportive positions than Democrats Deutsch and Hastings because voters in Democratic primaries tend to be far more sympathetic to gay civil rights issues than voters in Republican primaries.

Some activists note that Florida's northern and rural areas, especially the state's conservative Panhandle, are more similar to neighboring states of Alabama and Georgia than to South Florida counties.

Recent elections show that "gay-baiting doesn't work" in the South because Southern voters tend to be more concerned about national defense issues than a candidates' support for gay rights, said Hastings Wyman, editor and publisher of Southern Political Report, a newsletter that monitors elections in the South.

But Foley will likely run into problems because he is not viewed as a "major player" outside of South Florida, Wyman said.

"I feel the movers and shakers in Florida's Republican Party don't want him to get the nomination," he said.

Neither Foley nor his press spokesperson responded to interview requests by press time.

MORE INFO

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
1325 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
202-393-5177
www.ngltf.org

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national news

High court could deliver gay rights milestone

SODOMY CASE, continued from Page 15

which is representing the two Houston men.

"That was something that we felt could be improved upon in the Bowers case," Logue added.

The court has also "grown" since its 1986 ruling, a factor that should bolster arguments to strike down the Texas sodomy law, Logue said.

"In Bowers, you see language [by some of the justices] that said, for example, sexual intimacy between gay people bears no connection to family life," she said. "Today, I think the court appreciates more the prevalence of our families and the fact that sexual intimacy in our intimate relationships really has a lot of parallels to those in every other family."

Paul M. Smith, a gay attorney and partner in Jenner & Block, a law firm in Washington, D.C., will present arguments for the two men. Lambda Legal officials said they chose Smith for his experience arguing cases before the high court.

'Abhorrence' over 'homosexual conduct'

Lawyers for the state of Texas — Rosenthal and William J. Delmore III and Scott A. Durfee, both Harris County assistant district attorneys — argued in their brief that the legislature exists so laws can be repealed or modified to match prevailing views regarding what is considered right or wrong. In addition, its up to elected lawmakers to determine the severity of the penalties to be attached to wrongful conduct.

The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled March 26 to hear arguments in a sodomy case involving Tyron Garner and John Geddes Lawrence. Their attorneys are challenging the constitutionality of the Texas' "homosexual conduct' law.

"Perhaps homosexual conduct is not now universally regarded with the same abhorrence it inspired at the time of the adoption of our Federal Constitution," they wrote, "but any lag in legislative response to a mere change of public opinion — if such a lag actually exists — cannot and must not constitute the basis for a finding that the legislature's original enactment [of the state's sodomy statute] exceeded its constitutional authority."

Texas prosecutors have gained the support of many lawmakers and conservative organizations around the country, which filed "friend of the court" briefs. They include 67 Republican and three Democratic lawmakers in Texas, the states of Alabama, South Carolina and Utah, and groups such as the Family Research Council, Focus on the Family, Concerned Women for America, the American Family Association Inc., the American Center for Law & Justice and the Center for Marriage Law.

"Our main argument is that this is not an issue covered in the Constitution, and what is being attempted is a dangerous subversion of the political process," said Kelly Shackelford, a lawyer for the Liberty Legal Institute in Plano, Texas, which submitted a "friend-of the court" supporting the sodomy law. "This issue should be left to the democratic process, and the Supreme Court shouldn't put down a policy position in stone for the entire country."

Shackelford said abolishing the state's sodomy law "could affect the marriage laws of every state."

Lynn D. Wardle, a law professor at Brigham Young University's Reuben Clark Law School, agreed.

"We're very concerned that the court could rule in the Lawrence case in such a way that would have very serious implications for marriage and for the resolution of same-sex marriage claims in the future," he said. "We, frankly, think that this is one of the purposes behind the lawsuit. And certainly there are people involved in the lawsuit who are pushing hard for same-sex marriages."

Some legal scholars contend that a high court decision in favor of Garner and Lawrence would lead to the end of sodomy laws in Texas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma — all states that ban sexual acts only between gay couples.

"If the court rules that a state cannot treat gay people unequally in that way, I believe it will have ramifications for lots of others areas in life in which we are treated unequally," said Chai Feldblum, a gay law professor at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. "It doesn't mean we will win every equal protection case if we win this one. But certainly if we win, we could make a claim that it's unfair to treat us unequally with regard to marriage rights."

Eight other states — Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Utah — and Puerto Rico have consensual sodomy laws that apply to heterosexual and homosexual adults. If the court rules that the Texas law denies a right to privacy, legal experts said it could invalidate the sodomy laws in all 13 states.

MORE INFO

Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund
120 Wall Street, Suite 1500
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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF ATHENS. Sundays, worship 11 am. 706-546-7914

ATLANTA

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL. Sundays, 8 am, 9 am, 11:15 am and 5:30 pm with Holy Communion. 634 W. Peachtree. 404-881-0835

ALL SAINTS MCC. Sundays, 10:50 am, Sunday school 10 am. 2352 Bolton Road N.W. 404-605-7140. www.allsaintsmcc.com

ATLANTA CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 10:30 am. Rich Auditorium of the Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree Street. 404-355-3767

ATLANTA FRIENDS. Quaker services, 10 am. 404-377-2474

CATHOLIC SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Sunday Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:30 am. Mon.-Fri. 12:10 pm. 48 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW. 404-521-1866

CHRIST COVENANT MCC. Sundays, worship 11 am; Queer Spirit, 7 pm. Wednesdays, dinner and prayer, 6 pm, choir rehearsal and ministry teams, 7 pm. 109 Hibernia Ave. 404-373-2933

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Group meets to share personal stories of faith and spirituality. 770-937-5035

CIRCLE OF GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH. Sundays, 6 pm. 404-624-1140

CIRCLE OF LOVE FELLOWSHIP OF ATLANTA. Sundays, 10 am. Wednesdays, Bible study, 7:30 pm. 778 Rays Rd. Ste. 108. 770-469-6419

CLIFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 11 am. Wednesdays, Bible study 7:30 pm. 369 Connecticut Ave. 404-373-3253

CONGREGATION BET HAVERIM. Second Fridays, vegetarian/dairy potluck dinner 7:30 pm. All other Fridays, Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm. Sundays, 9:30-11:45 am. Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Ave. 404-607-0054 or CBH@mindspring.com

DRUID HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 11 am. & 6:30 pm. Wednesdays, Young adult Bible Study, 7:45 pm. 1026 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-875-7591

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY. Sundays, 8:45 and 11:15 am, 6 pm. 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-373-8338

FIRST CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 11 am. 3025 Maple Dr. NE, Buckhead. 404-233-2061

FIRST EXISTENTIALIST CONGREGATION. Sundays, Celebration of life, 11 am. Full Moon Rituals. 404-378-5570 or e-cong@mindspring.com

FIRST MCC OF ATLANTA. Sundays, worship 11 am Wednesdays, worship 7 pm. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143

FRIENDS WORSHIPPING TOGETHER THROUGH CHRIST. Sundays, 11 am. Days Inn Conference Rm. 239, 5990 Western Hills Dr., Norcross. Pastor Dana Worsham, 770-934-9452

GENTLE SPIRIT CHRISTIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 7 pm. 404-522-1444

GOD, SELF AND NEIGHBOR MINISTRIES. Sundays, 1:30 am. An open and affirming ministry of the United Church of Christ. 743 Virginia Ave. 404-881-0880

INMAN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Sundays, 10:55 am. 404-522-9322

INTEGRITY/ATLANTA. The gay and lesbian ministry of the Episcopal church. Second Fridays, 7 pm. All Saints' Episcopal Church, Atlanta. 770-642-3183.

MARIETTA/KENNESAW MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 10:30 am. 770-656-8467

MEDITATIONS FOR THE MILLENNIUM. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Introductory workshop in Eastern philosophies. 404-627-8708

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NEW CHURCH AT UNITY MIDTOWN. Sundays, 11 am. 404-874-1937

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NORTH POINT CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 10:30 am. Homewood Suites, Davis Dr. 770-569-8601

NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION. Sundays, 10:30 am. 770-955-1408

OAKHURST BAPTIST CHURCH. "Every member a minister." Sundays, 11 am. 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur. 404-378-3225. www.oakhurstbaptist.org

ORMEWOOD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 9 am. Fellowship Hall, 11 am. Sanctuary. Awesome Celebration, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 7 pm. Fellowship Hall. 1071 Delaware Ave. SE., Atlanta. www.ormewoodparkpress.org. 404-627-2216

PILGRIMAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. Sundays, worship 10 am. 3755 Sandy Plains Rd., Marietta. 770-971-0007

RAMESHORI BUDDHIST CENTER. Classes offered throughout the Atlanta area. www.meditationforeveryone.org, 404-378-8599

REDEFINED FAITH WORSHIP CENTER. Third Sundays, 11 am. GSU Student University Center, corner Gilmer and Courtland Sts. 743 Virginia Ave. 404-872-2133

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ST LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. (May 26 — August 11 Sundays, 8 am, 10 am & 6 pm.) Sundays 8 am, 9 am, 11:15 am, & 6 pm. 435 Peachtree St. NE 404-873-7600

ST LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH. 10 am Sunday service. 3264 Northside Pkwy, NW. 404-237-4413

ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Sundays, worship 8:45 am and 11:15 am. Wednesday dinner, 6:00 pm, program 6:45 pm. Corner of Peachtree and 5th. 404-873-2636

ST. PATRICK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Sundays, 8:30 am, 10:30 am Holy Eucharist. 4755 North Peachtree Road. 770-455-6523, www.stpat.net.

STS. SERGIUS AND BACCHUS CHURCH. First Sunday, 3pm. Meeting at Decatur First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 601 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur. 404-508-9128

TRINITY CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 11 am. Meets in Frazer Center. 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-296-6064

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Sundays, 10:45 am. 404-659-6236

TRUTH CENTER MCC. Sundays, 3 pm. Airport Holiday Inn, I-85 at Virginia Ave. exit. 770-951-1380

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL. Sunday school 10 am; Sunday services 9 & 11 am. 2676 Clairmont Rd. NE Atlanta 30329-2741. 404-633-4505

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ATLANTA. Sundays, 9:30 and 11:15 am. 1911 Cliff Valley Way (off I-85 N Access Road). 404-634-5134. www.uuca.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF GWINNETT COUNTY. Sundays, 11 am. 770-717-7913

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF MARIETTA. Sundays, All-inclusive service, 10:30 am. 770-528-9542

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF NORTH METRO ATLANTA. Sundays, 9:45, 11:30 am. Summer service 10:30 am only June thru mid August. 11420 Crabapple Rd. 770-992-3949

UNITY FELLOWSHIP OF CHRIST CHURCH. Sundays, 3 pm. 404-752-5030

VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH. Sundays, Liturgical worship with Holy Communion, 11 am. 404-873-1355

AUGUSTA

MCC AUGUSTA. Sundays, 11 am and 7 pm. 311 7th Street. 706-722-6454

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUGUSTA. Sundays, 10:30 am. 3501 Walton Way. 706-733-7939

COLUMBUS

ANCHORED IN CHRIST MINISTRIES. Sundays 11 am & 6 pm, Wednesdays 7 pm. 3818 2nd Ave. 706-653-1488. www.anchoredinchristministries.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF COLUMBUS. Sundays, 10:30 am. 1442 Double Churches Rd. 706-660-1442

MACON

ST. BARNABAS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 6:30 pm. Last Sundays, potluck after services. 2020 Ingleside Ave. (behind Econo Lodge). 478-722-0057

NORTH GEORGIA

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, DAHLONEGA. Sundays, 11 am. Hwy 19 at Park St. 706 864-0661

NACOOCHEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SAUTEE. Sundays, 10 am. 706-878-2226

MOUNTAIN LIGHT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, ELLIJAY. Sundays, 10:30 am. 3423 Turniptown Rd. 706-636-4935. www.mluuc.org

SAVANNAH

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SAVANNAH, Troup Square. Sundays, 11 am. 912-234-0980

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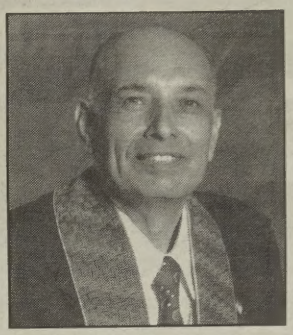
religion news

Presbyterian court holds trial in gay clergy fight

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A top official in the Presbyterian Church (USA) broke the denomination's rules when he failed to call a special meeting to address conservative members' concerns about gay clergy, an attorney for an Ohio church claims. In a 12-hour trial on March 17 before the denomination's highest court, Paul Rolf Jensen argued that Rev. Fahed Abu-Akel, an Atlanta minister and the denomination's moderator, had a duty to call a special meeting of the General Assembly — the faith's legislative body — after receiving a petition from a California elder. "This case will decide the future of our denomination," Jensen said. Some 13 people who signed the petition for a historic national meeting on the issue withdrew their names after Abu-Akel wrote to petitioners, lobbying against the special assembly that he said would cost $500,000 and divert attention from other church work. The special assembly would have been the first ever held by the 214-year-old denomination, which is based in Louisville, Ky. A verdict was not issued by press time. In a separate case, the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian General Assembly affirmed the ordination of lesbian Katie Morrison. The court ruled that sexual orientation alone "is insufficient to make a person ineligible for ordination."



Rev. **Fahed Abu-Akel**, the Atlanta minister who serves as moderator for the Presbyterian Church (USA), faces charges that he improperly tried to derail a special meeting backed by opponents of gay clergy. (Photo by Danny Bolin)

Canadian military chaplains want to bless gay marriages

OTTAWA — While gay U.S. military personnel who will fight in the Iraq war must hide their sexual orientation, Anglican military chaplains here are trying to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies to help soldiers feel more at ease. A Canadian Defense Department official told the National Post nothing stops a chaplain from officiating at the union of a gay or lesbian soldier. "I would dearly love to be free to celebrate such ministry if requested by a couple to do so," Major John Fletcher, a senior Anglican chaplain, said in a recent letter. The Anglican Church currently forbids same-sex marriage ceremonies. Some United Church chaplains already perform such services if requested. Last summer, an Ontario court ruled that the federal ban on gay marriage was illegal.

Conservative Jews rethink gay rabbis, same-sex unions

LOS ANGELES — The nation's second-largest Jewish denomination is reconsidering its prohibition against ordaining gay men and lesbians and blessing same-sex unions. The chief lawmaking body of the 1-million U.S. Conservative Jews, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, is not expected to discuss the issue until at least next year. In 1992, the panel debated the issue and settled on an ecclesiastical version of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Conservative seminaries don't ask rabbinical students their sexual orientation, nor do students reveal it. Open gays can't serve as rabbis or cantors. The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, which represents 800 U.S. temples, said the status of gays remained unclear. "Discussion about this issue and open disagreement about this issue is frankly called for," Rabbi Elliott Dorff, rector of the University of Judaism, told the Los Angeles Times. "If we ultimately agree to disagree, that would be fine."

Reform Jewish seminary accepts first trans student

NEW YORK — Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Reform Judaism's rabbinical seminary, accepted a transgendered person — the first known ordination of a rabbi who switched genders. A male rabbinical school applicant who used to be a woman was accepted at the seminary. Reuben Zellman, 24, of Oakland, Cal., considers himself "transgender and queer." He told the Baltimore Jewish Times he does not want to spark religious debates or become a political lightning rod. "As far as I know, I am the first person to do this, but that's not why I'm doing it," Zellman said. "I'm becoming a rabbinical student because that's what I want to do with my life." Zellman was accepted "on his own merits," according to the school's national director of admissions, Rabbi Roxanne Schneider Shapiro.

La. town squares off on gay camp vandalism

ALEXANDRIA, La. — What the Baptist ministers of Grant Parish should be condemning is vandalism, not homosexuality, according to an area spokesperson for the Libertarian Party of Louisiana. Manitou Woods, a gay retreat, is located in a remote area between Pollock and Georgetown near here. When camp owner Skip Ward, 82, discovered that the front gate was damaged and a large sign was stolen, he had to face a half-page ad condemning homosexuality placed by area Baptist ministers in Town Talk, a local newspaper. A local Libertarian politician told Town Talk that no one has a right to damage private property. The camp, which is not new, remained out of the local limelight until recently when someone noticed an Internet site promoting it.

From staff and wire reports

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(404) 816-4AMC

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CARMIKE CINEMAS
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CROSSROADS 16
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(770) 922-4104

CARMIKE CINEMAS
RIVERSTONE 15
5 Bethany at College Pkwy.
(770) 720-9520

COVINGTON SQUARE 8
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(770) 593-2600

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Greenbriar Mall (800) 555-TELL

MEGA STAR CINEMAS
STONECREST MALL 16
120 Exit at Turner Hill Rd.
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REGAL CINEMAS
ARBOR PLACE 18
I-20 at Exit 9-Chapel Hill Rd.
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REGAL CINEMAS
AUSTELL 22
2483 East-West Connector Rd.
Austell 1-800-555-TELL

REGAL CINEMAS
DELK 10
2654 Delk Rd. Marietta
1-800-555-TELL

REGAL CINEMAS
HOLLYWOOD 24
North I-85 at Shallowford
1-800-555-TELL

REGAL CINEMAS
MAU OF GEORGIA 20
I-85 at Exit 45, Buford Dr.)
1-800-555-TELL

REGAL CINEMAS
MEDLOCK CROSSING 18
5700 Medlock Br. Rd. Duluth
1-800-555-TELL

REGAL CINEMAS
RIVERDALE 14
Hwy. 138 & Taylor
1-800-555-TELL

STARLIGHT DRIVE-IN
2000 Moreland Ave. SE
(404) 627-5786

UNITED ARTISTS
LENOX SQUARE
Lenox Square Mall
(770) 333 - Film#300

UNITED ARTISTS
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6000 N. Point Parkway
(770) 333 - Film#306

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT. NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED.

MAKE 2003 A YEAR OF RENEWAL!

Spiritual renewal can bring you the joy and peace you've been missing. Come and meet the God of love and inclusion you've longed to know.

IN ATLANTA

Christ Covenant MCC
109 Hibernia Ave. Decatur
404.373.2933
www.christcovenantmcc.org

Spiritual Ed:
Sundays, 9:45am
Worship:
Sundays, 11:00am

God's love is for everyone.

15.52

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If customer finds another same equipped vehicle advertised at a lower price within 3 days of delivery, Nalley Acura will refund the difference. Signed buyers order required.

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2003 ACURA RSX
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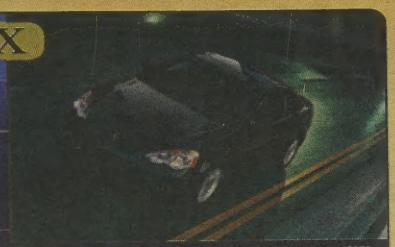

Payment based on a 48 month closed-end lease, with approved credit after $1,300 down cash or trade equity due at signing, plus first payment, $275 security deposit, tag, title and WRA fees. Plus tax. Mileage restriction 12K miles per year average or less excluding excessive wear or damage. MSRP $20,475. Offer good with approved credit.

2003 ACURA TL
Model#UA566
$329 A MONTH

Payment based on a 39 month closed-end lease, with approved credit after $999 down cash or trade equity due at signing, plus first payment, $400 security deposit, tag, title and WRA fees. Plus tax. Mileage restriction 12K miles per year average or less excluding excessive wear or damage. MSRP $29,480. Offer good with approved credit.

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Model#YA4243FNW
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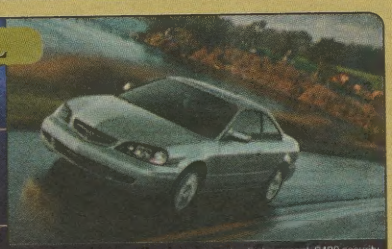

Payment based on a 39 month closed-end lease, with approved credit after $999 down cash or trade equity due at signing, plus first payment, $400 security deposit, tag, title and WRA fees. Plus tax. Mileage restriction 12K miles per year average or less excluding excessive wear or damage. MSRP $28,700. Offer good with approved credit.

2003 ACURA RL
Model#KA9653JTW
$499 A MONTH

Payment based on a 36 month closed-end lease, with approved credit after $1,999 down cash or trade equity due at signing, plus first payment, $500 security deposit, tag, title and WRA fees. Plus tax. Mileage restriction 12K miles per year average or less excluding excessive wear or damage. MSRP $43,650. Offer good with approved credit.

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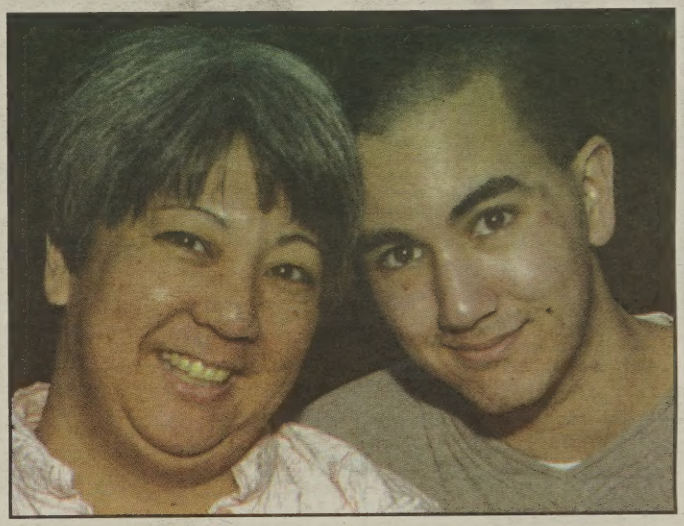


When **Ian Lowry** (right) came out of the closet at age 15, his mom **Debi** began her part-time passion as a gay rights activist. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

A parent's pride

Mom of gay son takes stand to combat gay intolerance in schools

By **CHRISTOPHER SEELY**

Two years ago, Ian Lowry made a family announcement that altered the course of his family's suburban life.

Most gay youth dread coming out of the closet to their parents for fear of being ostracized. But for Ian, at age 15, the decision was simple. Based on his power of reason, he wagered that no harm could be done.

"I came upon the realization that I was gay," he said. "I knew for a long time that my mom had a lot of gay friends and my dad was friendly with gay people as well."

So he told them.

What Ian did not expect was the backbone that his mom, Debi Lowry, would show for him and his gay classmates in the fight for just treatment on school campuses.

"My son came out to his father and I in June 2001, and later that month, we went to Pride," Debi said.

The Lowry clan didn't need basic coping support from groups like PFLAG, but sought resources to proactively combat issues that might arise when Ian was outside their embrace, she said.

"I needed a resource of how I could help him if there were things that would happen that we were not prepared for," she said.

The family stumbled upon an organization that formed just months earlier in March 2001.

"We saw the Enlight booth," she said. "They seemed really enthusiastic."

Little did Debi know that Enlight Atlanta, which fights bias based on sexual orientation and gender identity in schools, would help her fulfill a mission in her life.

"We decided then that we had to do this because it is where we were," she said. "We have to be able to combat the ignorance that you encounter at school. We felt that we were obligated to fight for people who are not as fortunate as Ian is to have an accepting family."

Nearly two years after Ian's gay declaration, Debi is not just an Enlight volunteer. She serves as the board president, a position she assumed in May 2002, less than a year after taking on her role as a vigilante for gay youth in schools.

"I thought it was kind of cool that she was actually supportive of me," Ian said. "I never thought she would become that involved in my life. Enlight tackles really important issues, and I love my mom for helping."

By day, Debi does marketing and sales research, but at night she spearheads fund-raisers, writes letters to national newspapers demanding more attention to gay intolerance in schools, conducts educational seminars and processes the results from a school climate survey administered by Enlight.

Out of 144 surveys that Enlight sent to schools in metro Atlanta this school year, 129 schools responded — a higher return rate than the previous year, she said.

The surveys report that 69 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth experience harassment or violence

Please see **ENLIGHT ATLANTA** on **Page 29**

Playing for pets

Crowds turned out March 13 for a toga-themed evening of bingo to benefit Pets Are Loving Support, a non-profit group that provides pet food and help with veterinary care to enable people with AIDS and other serious illnesses and disabilities to keep their pets. Hosted by camp drag diva **Bubba D. Licious**, the popular PALS bingo nights take place the second Thursday of every month at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center, 418 Armour Drive, with a different theme for each event. Next month is Trailer Park Bingo on April 10; tickets cost $10. Call 404-876-PALS or visit www.palsatlanta.org for more information. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

CALENDAR, **Page 28** OCCASIONS, **Page 28** OBITUARY, **Page 29**

notes

Action Cycling Atlanta sponsors 'Action Cycling 200 — Pedaling for a Purpose,' the first-ever charitable bike ride from Atlanta to Athens and back on May 31-June 1 to benefit the Emory Vaccine Center. The registration kickoff party is March 23 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Emory Vaccine Center, 945 Gatewood Road. www.actioncyclingatlanta.org

SUNDAY MARCH 23

GOLFING GIRLS: The Atlanta Harlequins Women's Rugby team hosts its *Third Annual Golf Tournament* with a cookout, raffle and awards ceremony at Sugar Creek Golf Club, 2706 Bouldercrest Road. 404-243-9529, info@atlantaharlequins.com

TUESDAY MARCH 25

MALE DIVERSITY: Gay men of every ethnicity are invited to the inaugural meeting of Atlanta Men of All Colors at 7:30 p.m. at Red Chair Restaurant & Video Lounge, 550 Amsterdam Ave. AtlMenofColor@aol.org or http://geocities.com/AtlMenofAllColors

DYKES & DOGS: Lesbian social group Fourth Tuesday hosts holistic pet care professionals with insights into care and healing for dogs at 6:30 p.m. Sheraton Buckhead Hotel, 3405 Lenox Road. 770-662-4353, www.fourthtuesday.org

WEDNESDAY MARCH 26

BAND PRACTICE: The First Metropolitan Community Church on North Druid Hills Road seeks musicians of all skill levels to join its orchestral ensemble. Rehearsals run 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. fmccorch@aol.com, 404-633-9419

SATURDAY MARCH 29 & SUNDAY MARCH 30

AIDS EDUCATION: AIDS Survival Project presents its free semi-annual THRIVE! Weekend with workshops offering practical advice by and for people with AIDS. Meals included. 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Pre-registration required. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-874-7926, www.aidssurvivalproject.org

community calendar

ATHENS

SATURDAY MARCH 22

GLBT TEEN GROUP. 2 pm. Presbyterian student center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net

MONDAY MARCH 24

LAMBDA ALLIANCE. 7 pm. UGA's LGBT student organization. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. 706-583-8297 or www.uga.edu/lambda

ATLANTA

SATURDAY MARCH 22

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION OPEN PLAY. 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

CENTER MEETING. 3 pm. Annual meeting to elect board members at new home on 170 11th St. RSVP 404-874-9890, www.aglc.org

COBB CANDLELIGHT VIGIL. 7-8 pm. In memory of Ahmed Dabarran, the square in downtown Marietta. www.cobbcandlelightvigil.com or Info@cobbcandlelightvigil.com

FRONT RUNNERS. Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

GEORGIA FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S LEAGUE. 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

GET YOUR LIFE. 12-4 pm. For young black gay and bisexual men. Breakfast and lunch provided. AID Atlanta, 1438 Peachtree St. 404-870-7746, deeperlove@aidatlanta.org

GLBT ROSWELL. 5-7:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North. Chenry8015@aol.com

HOTLANTA BASKETBALL. Men at 11:30 am. Women at 2 pm. New association, all skill levels welcome. Atlbasketball@aol.com

MIDTOWN ARTISTS MARKET. 10 am-3 pm. Midtown Promenade, 931 Monroe Drive. 770-913-3978

MOTHERLY MAYHEM SCAVENGER HUNT. Fund-raiser for arts and Atlanta charities. www.mothers-milk.org, 404-687-0971

NAGS POTLUCK. 6 pm. Northlake Alliance of Gays/Lesbians & Straights. http://www.geocities.com/nagsatlanta

ZAMI BASKETBALL. 3 pm. African-American hoopers, 18 and older. First Decatur Baptist Church, 308 Clairmont Ave. 404-370-0920, zami@zami.org

SUNDAY MARCH 23

ATLANTA FEMINIST WOMEN'S CHORUS. 3:45 rehearsal. Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. 770-438-5823 or AFWChorus@yahoo.com

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 11 am. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. 4-6 pm. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard Ave. Decatur, 404-370-0920

COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA. 2 pm. Partner dance lessons at UUCA Social Hall, 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE. Swing and Foxtrot, $10 per hour. Contact Shirley Adams for information, 404-876-3950 or comeoutdancing@mindspring.com

GET YOUR LIFE. 12-4 pm. For young black gay and bisexual men. Breakfast and lunch provided. AID Atlanta, 1438 Peachtree St. 404-870-7746, deeperlove@aidatlanta.org

GOLF TOURNAMENT. Atlanta Harlequins 3rd Annual Golf Tournament, 11 am. Sugar Creek Golf Club, 2706 Bouldercrest Road. 404-249-9529 or www.atlantaharlequins.com

OSCAR PARTY & SILENT AUCTION. Auction for Enlight, 5-7 pm. Party, 7:30 pm. Red Chair Restaurant & Video Lounge. www.enlight-atlanta.org

MONDAY MARCH 24

FAMILY, FRIENDS, PARTNERS & VOLUNTEERS. 7 pm. AIDGwinnett. First United Methodist Church of Covington, 1113 Conyers St. 770-962-8396

GAY SINGLE MINGLE. 6:30-9:30 pm. Miss Q's Neighborhood Bar, Midtown. Member $10, nonmembers $15. 404-872-5325

HOTLANTA SQUARES. High energy square dancing, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 404-432-1809 or hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

LAVENDER LIGHT BOOK CLUB. 7:30-9:30 pm. Borders Snellville, 1929 Scenic Highway. 404-874-8294

WOMEN WRITERS' GROUP. 6:30 pm. Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Christopher Seely. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

Angela Motter headlines the Coff-E House at the First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr., at 8 p.m. on March 28.

TUESDAY MARCH 25

ATLANTA MEN OF ALL COLORS. 7:30 pm. Red Chair Restaurant & Video Bar. AtlMenofColor@aol.com, http://geocities.com/AtlMenofAllColors

ATLANTA OUTWORLDERS. 7 pm. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amsterdam Ave. for "Buffy." 770-451-8947, www.outworlders.org

ATLANTA PLAYLAB. 6-8 pm. Free workshop for playwrights. Peachtree Library, 1315 Peachtree. 404-872-8940

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 pm. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

DEEPER LOVE! 6:30-9 pm. For black gay and bisexual men. 404-870-7740, DeeperLove@aidatlanta.org

FOURTH TUESDAY. 6:30 pm. Lesbians and their dogs. Sheraton Buckhead Hotel, 3405 Lenox Road, 770-662-4353, www.fourthtuesday.org/preregister.html

FRONT RUNNERS RUN/WALK. 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon, Decatur. 770-621-5007

HOTLANTA SQUARES. High-energy square dancing, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 404-432-1809 or hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

WEDNESDAY MARCH 26

AID ATLANTA. 12-6 pm. Free OraQuick rapid HIV testing. 1438 W. Peachtree St., NW, Suite 100. 1-800-551-2728, www.aidatlanta.org

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. 7 pm. Bereavement Group. 404-688-2524

CHARIS CIRCLE. 7:30 pm. Cynn Chadwick, "Cat Rising." 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

FRONT RUNNERS. 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

GAY FATHERS OF ATLANTA. 7:30 pm. All are welcome. W. Peachtree at North Ave. 404-342-6451

LIFEGUARD. 6:30-9 pm. Workshop for gay men exploring and defining intimacy, relationships, self-esteem, expectations, communication skills, safer sex, and boundaries. AID Atlanta, 404-870-7763, www.aidatlanta.org

OUR SONG 7:15– 9:15 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chorus. Rehearsal, First Existentialist Congregation Church. 470 Candler Park Drive. 404-222-0443, oursongatlanta@aol.com

RAINBOW HOME TEAS. Continental breakfast, 7:45-8:30 am. Afternoon tea, 5:45-6:30 pm. RSVP by Tuesday, 3 pm. 404-486-9034, x104

SAFE HARBOR. 7:30 pm. Christian fellowship and bible study for gay men and lesbians. 770-717-9971 or 404-622-8561

SOUTHEAST ATLANTA GAYS & LESBIANS. 7:30 pm, Gravity Pub on Glenwood Ave. 404-614-0959

TEEN GROUP. 6:30-8 pm. Ages 13-18. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-7722

YOUNG ADULT GROUP. 6:30-8 pm. Ages18-24. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-7722

YOUTHPRIDE. 6:30-8 pm. Read and Rap at Jake's Ice Cream, 655 Highland Ave. www.youthpride.org

THURSDAY MARCH 27

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS. Rehearsals 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Road. 404-320-1030 or www.agmchorus.org

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 pm. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

ATLANTA WOMEN'S RUGBY. Practice 7-9 pm. Matches on Saturdays, no experience necessary. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

BOYTALK. 6:30-8 pm. 18-24. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-7722

COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA. 7 pm. Partner dance lessons at UUCA Social Hall, 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE. Swing and Foxtrot, $10 per hour. Contact Shirley Adams for information, 404-876-3950 or comeoutdancing@mindspring.com

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS. 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. ajones@mindspring.com

LAGENDER INC. 6-7:30 pm. Transgender/Transsexual support group in collaboration with Aniz Inc. 223 Mitchell St., Suite 200. 404-767-5644

LGBT MOVIE GROUP. Movie followed by discussion at nearby restaurant. 404-872-0726 or rambook@aol.com

LONG TERM SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP. 7:30-9 pm. Must pre-register. Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396, ext. 28

SURVIVAL & RESISTANCE. 7:30 pm. Lesbians aging in all colors, sponsored by Charis Circle. 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

WOMYN'S GROUP. 6:30-8 pm. Ages 18-24. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-7722

FRIDAY MARCH 28

THE AGENDA Midnight. Gay Television. People TV Cable Channel 24. www.herounit.com

ATLANTA FREEDOM MARCHING BAND. 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 7:30 pm. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

COFF-E HOUSE. 8 pm. Featuring Angela Motter. First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. $10

HEPATITIS VACCINATIONS. 9 pm – midnight. Hoedowns Bar, Hepatitis A & B vaccinations administered by AID Atlanta. www.aidatlanta.org

HIV TESTS. 4 pm – midnight. Oral tests administered by AID Atlanta. 404-870-7763, www.aidatlanta.org

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

UPCOMING/ONGOING

AFRICAN-AMERICAN GAY MEN'S ARTIST PROGRAM. Share a book, poem, artwork, play or song with other talented gay men. Weekly, 404-454-4582

AIDGWINNETT. Free no needles HIV testing. 9 am – 7 pm on the first and third Tuesday, 9 am – 5 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday and every Thursday. 725 Scenic Hwy., Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396, ext. 23. spencerk@aidgwinnett.org

AIDS 101. AID Atlanta seminar offers more than 20 different sessions on HIV/AIDS throughout year on social and medical issues. Volunteers wanted. 404-870-7742, aids101@aidatlanta.org

ASIAN PACIFIC LESBIAN BISEXUAL TRANSGENDERED NETWORK. Meets monthly.1-866-206-9069, ext. 2321 or aplbtn@onebox.com

ATLANTA GAY PARENTS. A group for gay and lesbian parents to discuss issues of parenting and discovery of gay and kid-supportive activities and spaces for unconventional families in Atlanta. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/atlantagayparents

ATLANTA OUTRIGHT LIBERTARIANS. Coffee and conversation. E-mail: Atlanta@Outrightusa.org

BUTCH LESBIANS OF THE WORLD UNITE (BLOW). Atlanta Chapter and the Femme Queens. Delivers food and assistance to the needy and PWAs. Weekly meetings, volunteers needed. 404-454-4582

FREE COUNSELING & HIV+ANTIBODY TESTS. Mon-Fri 9:30am-7pm. Sat 9am-1pm. Our Common Welfare. 4329 Memorial Drive, Suite H, Decatur. 404-296-3090. Also at 2416 Cascade Rd. SW every other Tues. 404-296-3090 or 404-758-2515

FREE CONFIDENTIAL HIV TESTING. HIV testing at YouthPride. 5:30-7pm Wed. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-7722

FREE HIV TESTING. Rapid results testing Tuesday, 1-5 pm. Thursdays, 9-5 pm. 550 Peachtree St., Suite 1010. Schedule appointment, 404-249-9244

ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING. Mon-Thur, 12-8 pm. AID Atlanta, 1438 W. Peachtree St. Suite 100. www.aidatlanta.org/hivtest.htm, 404-870-7700

ELUZAI. Spiritual empowerment group for African-American lesbians & bisexual women. 404-630-5252

HOME BUT NOT ALONE. House-sharing for people with HIV/AIDS. 770-395-2546

LAMBDA GROUP. Family beyond the northern perimeter. 770-457-5264 or cozzoinger@Worldnet.att.net

PROJECT OPEN HAND. Volunteers needed to deliver meals to people with AIDS in the Atlanta area. 404-872-2707

RYAN WHITE FUNDS AVAILABLE. Money is available to AIDS organizations in the 20-county Metro area. 404-893-0791

TRICKS BRIDGE CLUB. Group for gay men and women who enjoy bridge. All skill levels welcome. Barry Adams, 1579F Monroe Drive #201. Atlanta, GA 30324

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. AIDS Education Services for Minorities. 404-753-2900

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Peachtree Hospice. 770-698-8785

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Pediatric playroom at Grady Infectious Disease Program. Contact Kim Price, 404-870-7808

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Clerical and support volunteers need at AID Atlanta. Call Tim for details, 404-870-7742

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Midtown Tour of Homes 2003 needs people to sell tickets at the Dogwood Festival in Piedmont Park, April 11-13. 404-228-8530, www.midtownhometour.com

MACON

FRIDAY MARCH 28

CCAN Potluck Luncheons. Noon. Bring a covered dish to share. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave.

SAVANNAH

SUNDAY MARCH 23

FRIENDS & COMPANY. 6 pm. AMF Victory Lanes. 912-354-0658

MONDAY MARCH 24

BOWLING LEAGUE. 9 pm. For single lesbians and gay men. AmF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Avenue. $10/week. Trey or Trish, 912-925-0320

GAY & LESBIAN PARENTS GROUP. 7:30 pm. Rich, 912-920-6850

THURSDAY MARCH 27

GAY YOUTH GROUP. 7 pm. First City Network office, third floor. Gene, 800-484-1913, pin 5353

occasions

BIRTHDAYS

"Happy 43rd birthday to Jonna Woodard on March 22. I love you so much. Love, Molly."

Happy birthday to Black & White Men Together Atlanta members Herb S. on March 24 and David S. on March 25.

Happy birthday to part-time Atlanta resident Elton John on March 25.

"Congratulations to Don George who will be celebrating his birthday on March 26 with his boyfriend Wat at Angelini's at the Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok."

Happy birthday to Kelly Smink, former Window Media chief financial officer, on March 26.

Southern Voice publishes birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives free of charge. E-mail your special occasions to occasions@sovo.com. Call 404-876-1819, ext. 19. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write: Southern Voice/Occasions, 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306. You must include a telephone number. Occasions are verified by telephone. Occasions may include photographs. Please include a SASE if you want your photograph returned, or send photographs by e-mail.

obituary

Douglas 'Doug' Wayne Lalicker, 43

Douglas "Doug" Wayne Lalicker died at home from AIDS complications on March 4 in Encinitas, Calif., according to friend Kevin Jerome. Lalicker's body was taken to Accu-care Crematory in Carlsbad, Calif.

Lalicker grew up in California and lived in Atlanta from 1992 to 2002, before returning to his home state.

Lalicker attended California Polytechnic Institute, San Luis Obispo, and excelled at track and field events, participating in races worldwide. As an adult, Lalicker played and instructed volleyball, serving on the board of the North America Gay Volleyball Association, Jerome said.

Lalicker, who "was known for his volunteerism and compassionate teaching of volleyball techniques to others" will be remembered fondly by everyone who knew him, Jerome said.

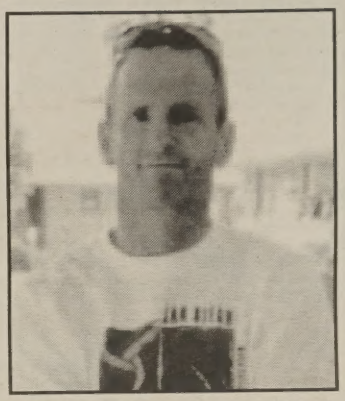
"Doug will remain an inspiration to his many friends and family members in his love of people, travel, sports and animals," Jerome said.

Survivors include parents Ben and Annette Lalicker of Murrietta, Calif., companion Barry Howard of Sparta, Ga., a sister and her partner Susan Lalicker and Ann Heck of Encinitas, Calif., and a brother and sister-in-law John and Cheryl Lalicker of Orange, Calif., with their children Hayden and Sheridan. Pets Billie Jo and Sammy Jo and several friends also survive Lalicker.

A local memorial service will be held March 22, 3 p.m., at the Chapel at St. Marks United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to San Diego Hospice or Trees Atlanta.

Christopher Seely



Doug Lalicker will be remembered as an avid traveler and sports enthusiast, according to friends. (Photo by Susan Lalicker)

MORE INFO

Douglas 'Doug' Wayne Lalicker Memorial
March 22, 3 p.m.
St. Marks United Methodist Church
781 Peachtree St.
404-277-7876

San Diego Hospice
4311 Third Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103-1407

Trees Atlanta
96 Poplar St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Mother works to keep gay students safe

ENLIGHT ATLANTA, continued from Page 27

at school and 87 percent of metro-Atlanta schools do not provide faculty or staff training on the issues. The surveys identify schools that want assistance from Enlight.

"We will help them in the educational process of improving the climate at their schools," Debi said.

To work towards improvement of those statistics, Enlight gives its first middle school presentation next week in conjunction with the American Civil Liberty Union's Sticks & Stones project, which trains guidance counselors, school administrators, teachers and staff on how to make schools safe for gay students, Lowry said.

The Jane Doe Fund of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta recently took note of Enlight's growing achievements and awarded the group $5,000 toward the continuation of the educational workshops and training programs.

"The fact that we are actually getting more involved on the school level has helped a lot of our credibility," Lowry said. "People have realized the importance of what we do."

In the next month, Enlight holds two fund-raisers and co-sponsors a seminar at Kennesaw State University featuring James Dale, the ousted gay scoutmaster who fought the Boy Scouts' gay ban to the United States Supreme Court, but lost.

MORE INFO

Enlight-Atlanta
P.O. Box 8597
Atlanta, GA 31106
404-872-4320
www.enlight-atlanta.org

Oscar Party and Silent Auction
March 23, 5-11:30 p.m.
Red Chair Restaurant & Video Lounge
550-C Amsterdam Ave.

Spring Sports Fling
April 5, 12-6 p.m.
Joe's On Juniper
1049 Juniper St.

Gay Rights: The Boy Scouts & the U.S.
Supreme Court
April 14, 7 p.m.
University Rooms, Student Center
Kennesaw State University
1000 Chastain Road

Open House: Sunday, March 23rd • 2pm-5pm

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Atlanta Intown.

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Unit 1403: 2bd/2ba, $299,000
Dominique Khouri, 404-229-9612
Coldwell Banker/The Condo Store.

Unit 925: 1bd/1ba, $189,900
Andy Philhower, 404-233-4633
Re/Max of Buckhead.

Unit 1032: 2bd/2ba, $310,000
Chrissy Neumann, 404-925-5335
Adams Fairfield Realty.

Unit 1405: 1bd/1ba, $184,500
Fiona-Jane Wheeler, 770-225-2182
Prudential Atlanta.

Unit 1421: 2bd/2ba, $279,000
Ronnie Deutchman, 404-250-8518
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ADDRESS: 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D
Atlanta, GA 30306
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PUBLISHER: Window Media LLC

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editorial

To adopt or not?

Is a **childless existence selfish** if you have the resources to raise children? Are we **living vapid lives**, partying too much and spending too much on exotic vacations and pricey furnishings?

By KEVIN NAFF

BABY TALK BECOMES A pastime when you reach a certain age, no matter how much you resist it. In the past couple of years, most of my straight friends have had children. One gay friend just had his first baby.

Another gay friend, who is no stranger to the club scene, is seriously considering parenthood. I've advised him that arriving to the nightclub with a car seat in tow might wreck his game.

As much as I adore my six nephews and nieces, I never gave serious thought to having kids of my own until a social worker friend of mine relayed a story about a recent day on the job.

She received a call from hospital workers after a 32-year-old mother fled the hospital shortly after giving birth to her 11th child. Yes,11th. The baby was born addicted to heroin.

My friend peered into the bassinet and was startled to see the newborn's face covered with bleeding scratches. During the process of "coming down" from the drugs, the baby convulsed, cried, and scratched herself obsessively.

The shock of this baby's plight inspired my friend to track down the mother; she was found the next day hiding in an abandoned row house with five other children. The woman had already had her parental rights terminated to five kids. The other five were living in squalor with no heat, running water, or electricity. After bouncing around various motels, the mother realized the authorities were onto her, so she broke into the abandoned house to hide and prostitute herself for more drug money.

My friend ultimately caught up with the woman and liberated those children. With any luck, their mother is in jail with no claim to any of her 11 kids, all of whom are now in foster care, split up and isolated from one another.

My friend drove directly to McDonald's after picking up the kids, who hadn't seen a meal in days. They gratefully devoured their Happy Meals. They had no socks or underwear; their clothes were so filthy that their original color was not discernable.

Yet, when my friend brought them a fresh change of clothes, they exhibited no bitterness or fear, only gratitude and smiles. None of them has been to school recently, so they read, write, and communicate far below grade level.

> One common objection to gay parenthood is that kids will grow up embarrassed for having same-sex parents. I suspect that kids living in poverty with abusive parents would be willing to suffer a few schoolyard taunts in exchange for a life of opportunity.

I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK ABOUT the two empty extra bedrooms in my house and wonder how many other gay households out there could be put to productive use by welcoming otherwise unwanted children.

Is a childless existence selfish if you have the resources, desire, and necessary commitment to raise children? Are scores of us living vapid lives, spending too much time in nightclubs after 30?

Do we spend too much money on exotic vacations and pricey home furnishings? Is it shallow to devote so much effort to maintaining a 32-inch waist?

Maybe this is just more privileged white guilt. Or maybe all people, gay and straight, encounter these dilemmas upon reaching "a certain age." But for gays, these are particularly vexing questions, given our tendency to prize abs and beach property over midnight feedings and college tuition savings plans.

Then there's the complicating factor of discriminatory, short-sighted legislators who make it difficult for gays to adopt. Florida has actually passed laws banning gay adoption. Even in states that don't prohibit gay adoption, laws and court rulings are inconsistent and can vary from county to county and county judges almost always have the last word on where children are placed.

GAYS LIVING IN THE WASHINGTON area are fortunate to have open-minded allies in city government. Officials here recently announced plans to encourage gays to adopt children, many of whom aren't wide-eyed, innocent babies, but are as old as 16.

Many of these kids have multiple siblings and face being split up. Kudos to those in city government who recognize the potential of gay families to alleviate the crisis of abandoned children.

The overt discrimination of laws and court rulings that impede gay adoption is a national tragedy. Imagine the scores of abandoned kids who could live advantaged lives in loving homes if gay adoption were encouraged everywhere.

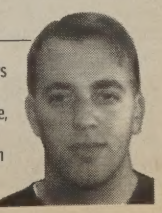
An average of 120,000 American children were adopted each year during the 1990s, according to the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse. But the Department of Health & Human Services estimates that, in 1997, only 20 percent of eligible children were adopted.

There do not seem to exist well-reasoned, non-bigoted arguments against gay adoption. One common objection to gay parenthood is that kids will grow up embarrassed and ridiculed for having same-sex parents. I suspect that kids living in poverty with drug-addicted, abusive parents would be willing to suffer a few schoolyard taunts in exchange for a life of opportunity and loving care.

There is some good news on the adoption front. Several medical associations have recently expressed support for gay adoption, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association.

Those developments, coupled with initiatives like the one here in D.C., are positive signs of progress for abandoned and abused children and gay families alike.

@ **Kevin Naff** is news editor of the Washington Blade, a sister publication to Southern Voice, and can be reached at knaff@washblade.com.



letters

FOF ex-gay ministry is flourishing not failing

To the Editor:

It appears your cramped worldview is clouding your ability to accurately report stories. It's laughable to attribute Focus on the Family's financial difficulties to John Paulk's highly publicized time at a gay bar in September 2000 ("Anti-gay group cuts staff, budget in wake of donations dip," news, Feb. 19).

Back to planet earth for a moment. Do you really believe all of our fund-raising, outreach and ministry are tied to gay issues, or the lives of ex-gay employees? In fact, a little legwork on your part would have elicited a very different story, albeit a less salacious and reactionary one.

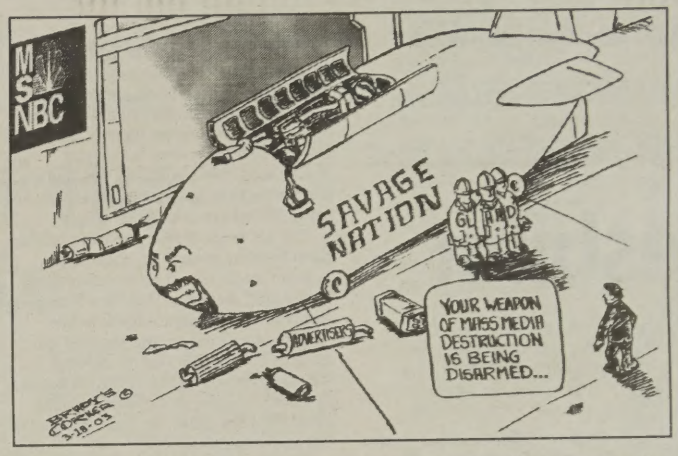
A more realistic view, which could have been easily obtained by a simple phone call, is that our challenges have more to do with our nation's downturn than that fateful September evening at Mr. P's. In fact, across the board, non-profits (including gay organizations), businesses and Christian ministries have fallen victim to a post-Sept. 11 economy.

Yet in spite of that hardship, the picture you painted is still unrealistically bleak. Our donations haven't plummeted, but simply leveled off. Economic conditions combined with normal inflationary pressures on fixed expenses and employee wages and benefits have forced us to lay off 36 employees and cut another 64 open positions.

Ironically, our funding to Love Won Out, our ministry to struggling homosexuals and their families, increased in the wake of John Paulk's broadcast with FOF founder Dr. James Dobson in October 2000 (one month after the incident at Mr. P's). And in the ensuing years, this outreach has flourished, growing 23.8 percent and averaging 1,000 people per event.

Our constituents believe in the message of Love Won Out. They believe in John Paulk. And most importantly, they believe in the limitless grace that God extends to each one of us when we fall or make errors in judgment.

TOM MINNERY
Vice President of Public Policy
Focus on the Family
Colorado Springs, Colo.



Cobb prosecutor put gay lifestyle on trial

To the Editor:

Those who knew Fulton County Assistant District Attorney Ahmed Dabarran describe him as a soft-spoken gentle soul who was well liked and even loved by many of his co-workers. He and his brother came to this country as teenagers from Somalia and raised themselves.

Like most of us, Ahmed was not without weaknesses and perhaps his greatest was his willingness to trust indiscriminately. Innocence that, along with a lifestyle he could not live openly, cost him his life.

The Cobb County Police Department did their part. They made an arrest and brought a defendant before the judicial system for prosecution. In Ahmed's case, I use the word "prosecution" theoretically for in practice, no such thing took place in Cobb County.

In fact, the very definition of "a travesty of justice" could have been rewritten subsequent to witnessing the gross lack of case preparation by the lead prosecutor.

It was Dabarran's lifestyle that was put on trial to appease the "holier than thou" servants of a vengeful God, who need little encouragement to conclude that alternate lifestyles are a sin and deserving of punishment, even death.

The prosecution failed or refused to offer anything to allow a decent but misguided juror to rise above ignorance and see Dabarran as a human being beyond his lifestyle. It was painfully obvious to those who watched that the lead prosecutor became paralyzed by his own homophobia, freezing not only his objectivity, but his ability to act.

What really happened the night Dabarran was bludgeoned to death? Who knows? Certainly the prosecution did not contribute any significant piece of the puzzle to complete the truth. The defense's greatest chore was to fill in the blanks with any outrageous tale that suited their fancy. After all they had no competition.

It's one thing to have a weak case against a defendant and lose the fight, but quite another to fail to prosecute. The Cobb County District Attorney's Office failed in its duty to seek justice for Dabarran and closure for his family and friends.

SANDRA F. POPE
Marietta, Ga.

Grammar training for DeKalb homophobe

To the Editor:

In your recent article about Danny Buggs, *the homophobic motivational speaker* employed by DeKalb County public schools, he is quoted as saying "What is our protections going to be for our dear children?"

I am motivated to suggest that after diversity training, Mr. Buggs attend a middle school grammar lesson. Perhaps there he would learn about subject-verb disagreement.

MIKE BOYKIN
Atlanta

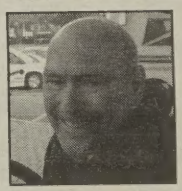
'THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREENE,' PAGE 68

THE Q

Questions about what's going on in **your** world

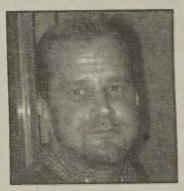
Interviews and photos by Christopher Seely

Do you worry that there won't be a place for you in the gay community as you grow older?



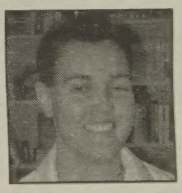
'One starts at my age to consider what the future will look like and it is kind of hard at this point to think about entering what now becomes the latter portion of my life without someone, without a close relationship. It's a major consideration in my life and I don't know how to go about it. I live my life alone with my cats.'

Scott Bradford, 60, Morningside



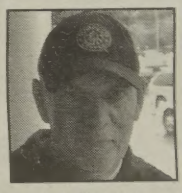
'No, I think it is going to get better not smaller. I think rights will probably come around to our favor. I just think since I've been out and about progress has been better and better, and the community has got stronger and stronger.'

David Packwood, 35, Morningside



'I'm not worried so much in the sense of ... will I still have friends? Will I still have interactions with the community? I have concerns that the community will not have a place for its members as it ages and that these people will not be taken care of, that we will not be taken care of as we grow older. I don't think what we have now is sufficient. And nobody likes the idea of having to die alone and I think that is what a lot of people worry about.'

Eileen Fannon, 27, Brookhaven

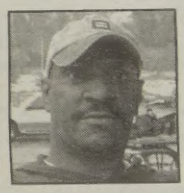


'I actually think that there is more respect for older gay males than there used to be. So yes I think there will be a place for me. It's just an attitude from the younger gay community. It seems to be more respectful, more understanding, more accepting.'

David Griswold, 53, Midtown

'No, because I don' think that way, in exclusionary terms. I think that that is more of a gay man thing — feeling like you won't have a place if you are older. A lot of gay men think that. I work at Cowtippers and they tell me when a new guy comes in they feel awful. They're not old, they're like 27 or 28 and a 21-year-old comes in and they're put off.'

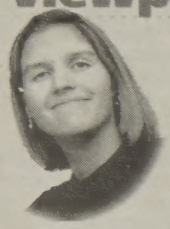
Scooby Dawson, 25, Downtown



'I don't worry because I know what direction I want to go in life and where I want to be in the next 10-20 years and I set my goals and reach them. I don't think I will be isolated. I think that eventually everyone will come together as one, hopefully.'

Calvin Hemphill, 32, Decatur

viewpoint JENNIFER VANASCO



The hit **Russian duo Tatu** kiss in their videos and sing of their love, but is it pseudo porn for straight men or rallying cry for lonely gay teens?

Pretend lesbian pop idols

IN THE NEW MUSIC VIDEO BY THE Russian pop "lesbian" duo Tatu, it is raining.

Two girls in white blouses, knee socks and tiny plaid skirts pace back and forth behind a chain link fence, like tigers. They come close to each other, they pull away. They sing with angst and passion:

"All the things she said running through my head/ ... being with you has opened my eyes. Could I ever believe such a perfect surprise?/ ... And I'm all mixed up, feeling cornered and rushed/They say it's my fault, but I want her so much."

On the other side of the fence, men and women look on disapprovingly, sheltered by umbrellas.

Eventually, the girls (singers Julia Volkova and Lena Katina) hold hands, lean against each other and kiss. But here's the thing.

It is a closed-mouth kiss, a kiss that looks passionate but isn't. There are no tongues. There are no teeth. It looks a lot like pretend.

The kiss is sweet, slightly erotic and has been banned by the BBC (due more to concerns over encouraging pedophilia than the lesbianism; both girls are now 18, but they look significantly younger in the video).

But it may or may not actually be a lesbian kiss, unless you define lesbian as any sort of girl-on-girl affection.

NEITHER VOLKOVA NOR KATINA, IN fact, call themselves lesbians, though they twine their limbs around each other in photo and video shoots and are coy when asked if they are lovers (maybe, they say). In a "behind the scenes" video clip, Katina says, "We are like we are, and we don't want to be anybody else." Later, she says, "We love each other."

The American media persist in calling them lesbians, even though few in the Russian media take their claims of "girl loving girl" seriously; they have both been rumored to have boyfriends at home.

The young women came together not through mutual affection but through *NSync-style machinations, with a Russian producer choosing them through public auditions a few years ago, then sharpening and marketing their image.

The lesbianism is merely the hook, the draw, the successful niche that has sold a hundred million albums around the world and rocketed Tatu to the top of the charts in New Zealand, Hong Kong, Italy, the U.K. and the United States.

IN MANY WAYS, TATU IS MORE ABOUT selling visual titillation and fascination than any kind of honest portrayal of actual lesbians.

The girls have posed for Italy's Maxim, in which they grope each other awkwardly, and are rumored to be contracted to appear in U.S. versions of Playboy. On stage, they kiss and rub up against each other. In their naughty schoolgirl outfits, Volkova and Katina are a straight male fantasy.

But their music, though written by others, tells a different story. Their music says that their love, real or pretend, intimate or not, is not about other people's wants but about themselves and their own desires, reflecting the cry of teenagers everywhere.

So what is Tatu: lesbian pseudo porn for straight men or rallying cry for lonely gay teenagers everywhere?

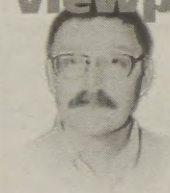
I think both. Tatu can — and will — fuel straight male fantasies on MTV and in magazines like Playboy and Maxim.

But they can also encourage young lesbians, bisexuals and gay guys to see their desire for each other as normal. In a way, Tatu — and especially their video "All the Things She Said" — provides a redemptive fairy tale that young gays desperately need.

At the end of the "All the Things She Said" video, the rain stops. The chain link fence disappears and we see the girls holding hands, walking together into the sunset. In that one image, Tatu does more than titillate; they offer hope.

Jennifer Vanasco is a Chicago-based syndicated columnist and can be reached at **vanasco@chicagofreepress.com.**

viewpoint PAUL VARNELL



Most bisexuals aren't out, they socialize mostly with heterosexuals, and form longer relationships with opposite-sex partners. So are they gay?

Do Bs really fit in 'GLBT'?

GAY MEN AND LESBIANS ARE FAR more likely to disclose their sexual orientation to their personal physicians than are bisexuals, according to an online survey conducted late last year by Harris Interactive and Witeck-Combs Communications.

The survey found that 55 percent of lesbians and 67 percent of gay men said they had come out to their physician. But only 23 percent of the self-described bisexuals said they had done so.

But the headline on the survey press release, repeated in many gay newspapers, was to the effect that fewer than half of all "GLBT" people had disclosed their sexuality to their physician.

That was extremely misleading. It obscured the fact that a majority of the lesbians and (especially) gay men were taking proactive responsibility for their health by dealing openly with their physician, and it equally obscured the important fact that bisexuals were not dealing well with disclosure that would help them obtain better health care and more accurate medical advice.

That leads to the conclusion that for some purposes, it can be important to disaggregate gays, lesbians and bisexuals (to say nothing of transsexuals) and not talk of them as if they were a unitary "community" or have more in common than they actually do.

If we fail to separate them out, we will be unable to identify — or even think to look for — problems each group may uniquely be facing and solutions that may work better for one group than another.

AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL, GROUPING bisexuals with gay men and lesbians makes some sense. In almost every way, bisexuals face the same issues of discrimination and prejudice that gays face, and for exactly the same reasons:

Some of their sexual activity violates sodomy laws; they cannot marry if they fall in love with a person of the same sex; they cannot serve openly in the U.S. military; they may encounter problems with child custody and adoption, and so on.

In other words, bisexuals face discrimination only because they sometimes behave like homosexuals.

Beyond that, gay activists have always sought to include bisexuals as part of a broader gay community because it helps increase the number of gays to politically relevant — and more recently economically relevant — levels. That familiar 10 percent figure for the gay population includes a substantial number of functional, if not self-defined, bisexuals.

But despite the identity of interests, there are important differences at the psychological and personal identity level. It seems clear from survey research that bisexuals understand their sexuality far differently from lesbians and gay men, and handle disclosure and relationship issues far differently, as the medical survey mentioned earlier suggests.

In interviews conducted for the extremely interesting 1994 book "Dual Attraction: Understanding Bisexuality" by former Kinsey Institute associates Martin Weinberg and Colin Williams, most bisexuals reported that they "were predominantly heterosexual in their sexual feelings, sexual behaviors, and romantic feelings" and socialized more with heterosexuals than with gays. So it was not so surprising that, for instance, only one-third of the bisexual men were out to their social acquaintances and fellow employees at work, whereas two-thirds of the gay men were.

THE QUESTION GAYS MAY THEN ASK IS how seriously these self-described bisexuals take their same-sex tricks, dates and relationships, or more fundamentally, how seriously they take the homosexual component of their sexuality.

No doubt there are vast individual differences. But the bisexuals Weinberg and Williams talked to "often said that the nature of bisexuality had a negative effect on the stability of relationships over time. Some — both men and women — mentioned ... being unable to focus exclusively on one sex."

When bisexuals did form committed relationships, Weinberg and Williams found that those were "overwhelmingly" with opposite sex partners, and they were much more likely to be non-monogamous "because open multiple relationships are an important part of their lifestyle."

Such findings suggest troubling obstacles for gay activists on a range of issues, from efforts to reach bisexual men with HIV information to attempts to solicit bisexual support for same-sex marriage.

They also remind us that in many ways the recently coined "GLBT community" is more a semantic artifact or political term-of-art than anything like an actual community.

Paul Varnell is a Chicago-based syndicated writer and can be reached at **pvarnell@aol.com.**

viewpoint JOHN CORVINO

The Advocate was a groundbreaking magazine. Now, it reads more like a **gay version of People**, with innuendo reminiscent of the Enquirer.

Death of the Advocate

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A great magazine called the Advocate.

Founded in 1967, the Advocate was for many years a groundbreaking gay and lesbian newsmagazine. At a time when the New York Times would not even print the word "gay," the Advocate kept gay readers, and a number of heterosexuals as well, informed about significant events affecting gay and lesbian lives.

No, the Advocate has not gone out of business. But some days I wish it would.

Take the cover of the March 4 issue, which features a veiled figure in a judicial robe over the provocative question, "Is There A Gay Man on the U.S. Supreme Court?"

Are you ready for the answer? Are you sure? OK, here it is: Probably not.

The teaser on the cover refers to Justice Souter, the court's only bachelor. When Souter was appointed, there were rumors he might be gay. But the rumors were never substantiated (indeed, they were pretty well refuted), and the story died.

Why resurrect the issue now? Well, the Supreme Court will soon decide a case that could reverse Bowers vs. Hardwick and declare sodomy laws unconstitutional. (Fingers crossed.) Having a gay justice on the court would certainly make things interesting.

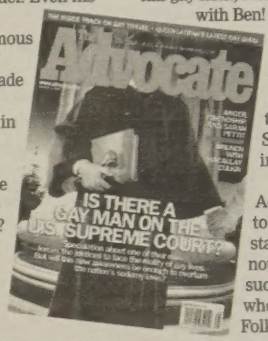
But we don't have a gay justice on the court — at least, not one for whom there's any convincing evidence.

The Advocate concedes this point. But they decided a provocative cover was more important than a non-misleading one. (Kind of like, "Death of the Advocate" as the headline for a column about a story about a magazine that isn't folding.)

This cover choice would not have annoyed me so much were it not for two things:

WE NEED SOUTER'S VOTE. WHICH means that this is probably not the best time to suggest, on the cover of a national magazine, that he's a homo — even if they eventually cleared things up in the article itself.

Fortunately, despite being dogged by silly rumors, Souter has been a reliable friend of the gay community since his appointment by Bush the Elder. Even his majority opinion in Hurley, where he wrote for a unanimous court upholding the right of Boston St. Patrick's Day parade organizers to exclude a gay group, was groundbreaking in the respect it showed to gay and lesbian concerns.



Are you surprised, by the way, that a gay-friendly justice is a Bush Sr. appointee? Stranger things have happened. Consider that the late Justice Harry Blackmun, author of the magnificent dissent in Bowers, was appointed by Nixon, and that Justice Stevens, arguably the most liberal current member of the court, was appointed by Ford.

By contrast, the author of the extremely homophobic majority opinion in Bowers, the late Justice White, was a Kennedy appointee.

BUT THE ADVOCATE COVER IS annoying for a second, more enduring reason. The March 4 cover is just another installment in the Advocate's unmistakable decline into tabloid journalism.

The Advocate was once a great, magazine. Now, it reads more like a gay version of People, with occasional innuendo reminiscent of the Enquirer.

And this decline is not merely embarrassing, it's boring. It seems that every other cover misleadingly suggests that someone is gay.

Ben Affleck's Gay Secret! (The secret? He has gay fans.) Matt Damon's Relationship with Ben! (They're friends and they co-wrote a screenplay.) Romeo (the male lead in the ballet) is gay!

Actually, that last one's true. A gay ballet dancer. Shocking, groundbreaking news!

I understand that the Advocate needs readership to make money. I also understand that sex sells. And I'm not generally prudish about such things. I think people who heavily protest "Queer As Folk" because it's bad for our reputation are just being silly.

But there's a key difference: "Queer As Folk" explicitly (and, in my view, needlessly) disclaims any intention to represent the entire gay community. By contrast, the Advocate claims on its cover to be, and is widely regarded as, our "national gay and lesbian newsmagazine." Which makes its descent into fluff all the more embarrassing and painful.

@ John Corvino teaches philosophy in Detroit and can be reached through this publication.

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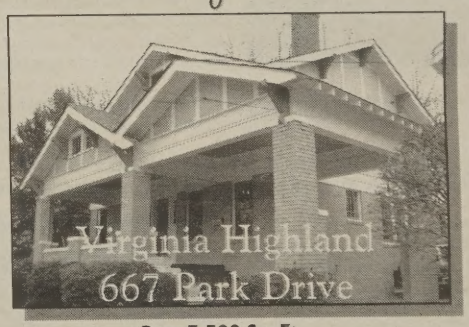

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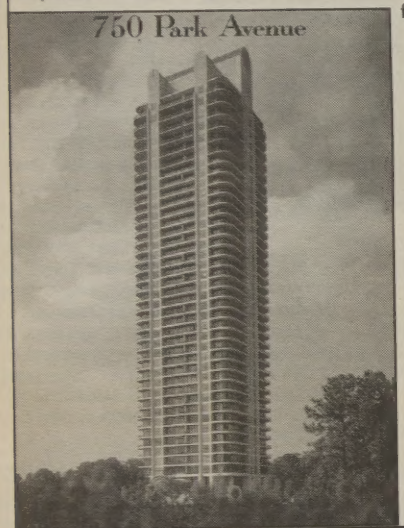

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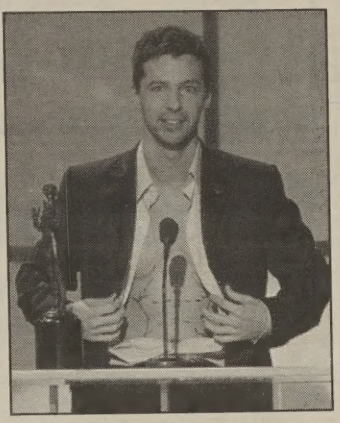
***Sean Hayes**, accepting "Best Male Actor in a TV Comedy" at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, when he opened his shirt to reveal a mock-diagram on his abdomen of the six-pack he said plastic surgeons would be implanting for him the next day (March 9)*



"I don't care about sexual preference, but we want to get the word out that this forest isn't the place for it."

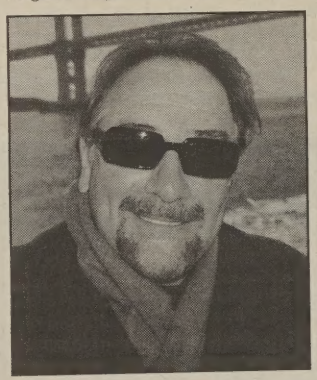
James Hull, director of the Texas Forest Service, on the decision to lock up the main entrance to the W.G. Jones State Forest near Houston after complaints about public sex among men at the park (Houston Chronicle, Feb. 28)

"Yellow alert! Orange alert! Who designed the terror warning — the Gay Men's Chorus?"

Comic Mario Cantone, who plays Charlotte's gay friend on HBO's "Sex & the City," at a New York benefit (March 5)

"I believe that one of the reasons for [Sandy] Koufax's enduring appeal — and for the success of the book — is the connection to another era when we distinguished between what is private and what is secret; when authors aspired to write incisively without being invasive. I would not reveal the sexual orientation of any subject unless that person wanted it to be discussed or unless it was already a matter of public record."

Author Jane Leavy, on Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax, who cut ties to the Los Angeles Dodgers, his former team, after the New York Post, which is owned by the same company, reprinted what Leavy called "an old rumor" that Koufax was gay and cut a deal with Leavy not to report it in the book (USA Today, March 7)



"You rats! You stinking rats who hide in the sewers! You think you can go after my income? You think you can kill my advertisers? You think I'm Dr. Laura? You think I'm gonna roll over like a pussy? ... We are going to go to the U.S. Justice Department under John Ashcroft! What you are doing is illegal!"

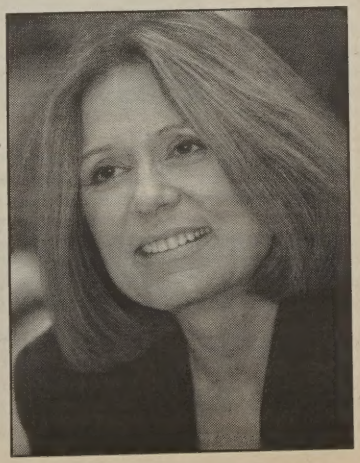
*Conservative talk show host **Michael Savage**, talking on his nationally syndicated radio program about efforts by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) to lobby advertisers to pull out of his his new MSNBC talk show (Feb. 27)*

"Phuket is probably one of the best gay destinations in the world, if you are looking for safety, sun, wonderful sandy beaches, a colourful gay community and a sparkling night life."

Punsak Saeng-chan, a gay activist in a small Thai beach community with about 3,000 gay residents but 25 gay bars and cabarets (The Nation, Phuket, Thailand, March 8)

"He's pro the gay community. But I wasn't out after the gay community so much, but as the man in my book acts and governs in a faggy way."

Yonkers, N.Y. newspaper publisher Ralph Marinelli, on his published allegation that the Westchester County GOP is run by "crooks and fags," including chair Jim Cavanaugh, who Marinelli criticized for pushing the city to adopt domestic partner benefits (Journal News, WhitePlains, N.Y., March 7)



"Read this book to know it's possible to grow up sane, compassionate and creative in a crazy, cruel, dictatorial world — providing you have guides like Anne Heche."

***Gloria Steinem**, in her book jacket quote recommending "Call Me Crazy," the new autobiography by Heche*

action! alert

Pastor pursues SoVo

Villa Rica church again pressuring Blockbuster to curtail access to newspaper

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

RELIGIOUS CONSERVATIVES IN Carroll County want a Blockbuster in Villa Rica to wrap Southern Voice in plastic and place it behind the counter like an adult magazine or they will cut and return their membership cards to the national chain of video rental stores.

Organizers of the effort are planning a March 29 protest at the Blockbuster on Bankhead Highway in Villa Rica. The event is scheduled for 10 a.m.

"We are going to have hundreds of customers show up at Blockbuster and cut up their cards," said Pastor Eddie R. Wyatt of Happy Valley Baptist Church. "Until they learn to make their place of business family-friendly, we will not do business there."

Blockbuster officials declined Wyatt's request to move the 50 papers distributed there each week behind the counter. Wyatt responded by asking Villa Rica city officials to investigate whether Southern Voice violates obscenity laws.

City officials twice sent a police officer to the Blockbuster location, according to Villa Rica City Attorney David Mecklin. The first time, the outlet was out of the newspaper.

"We concluded that Southern Voice is just a newspaper," Mecklin said. "It doesn't break any laws, and the box is on private property, so it's really just up to the landowner."

A Blockbuster spokesperson said last week that the company was unaware of the planned protest by the 500-member church.

"We continue to tell them the same thing and it's just not what they want to hear," said Randy Hargrove, a company spokesperson. "This is a general interest newspaper that is widely available at many locations, and in this situation we believe it should be left up to the public whether they pick up the paper or not."

LAST OCTOBER, MEMBERS OF THE Baptist church objected to the newspaper on religious grounds and asked Blockbuster to remove it. Ten Blockbuster locations in Villa Rica, Austell, Mableton, Hiram, Douglasville and Lithia Springs pulled Southern Voice from distribution racks. A spokesperson for Blockbuster said at the time the newspaper was removed for its "adult content."

Within days, officials in the company's Dallas headquarters reviewed Southern Voice and found it "respectable and suitable" enough to be distributed in the store. About 500 copies of the newspaper are distributed between the stores.

Wyatt said the current conflict is not about gay content. His church has no gay members, he said.

"I'm honest before the Lord [that] it's not a gay thing, but we're just trying to stand on what's right, and your paper is not right. It's immoral," Wyatt said.

The pastor of a Baptist church in Villa Rica wants a Blockbuster outlet to place Southern Voice behind the counter over its 'immoral' content. Blockbuster has refused.

A SOUTHERN Voice reader near Villa Rica, west of Atlanta on Interstate 20 near the border of Carroll and Douglas counties, said the protest is "church-sponsored discrimination."

"I'm going over there and renting every copy of 'Queer as Folk' that they have, and I promise you I'll be there to protest the protest, and others should be, too," said David Sondergeld, who provided Southern Voice with an article about the planned protest in the March 6 Villa Rica Voice.

Cheryl Summerville, Southern Voice circulation manager and a resident of the area near the Villa Rica church, said the paper remains popular in outlying areas of metro Atlanta.

"I know this pastor thinks there's no queers that live out there, but there are plenty, and they pick up the paper," Summerville said.

Mike Kitchens, the paper's general manager, said he thought the controversy had passed.

"Blockbuster made the right decision in allowing Southern Voice back in the display stand," he said.

ACTION! INFO

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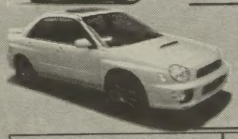
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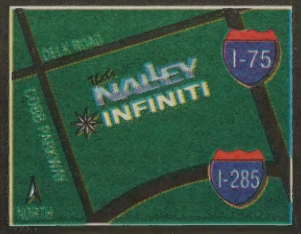

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OSCAR MANIA: Gay viewing parties for Academy Awards offer benefits to non-profit groups. **Page 49**

CLASSICAL GAS: Grammy Award-winning conductor **Michael Tilson Thomas** releases new Mahler interpretation. **Page 39**

Gay and gray

Growing movement identifies challenges, opportunities specific to gay seniors

By MIKE FLEMING

BY SHEER VIRTUE OF THEIR NUMbers, Baby Boomers throughout their lives have given voice to a variety of social issues: student-teacher ratios in the '50s and '60s, the rights of the individual in the '70s and financial planning overhauls in the '80s.

Now as the group ages, retirement needs are at the fore of American culture like never before. The Census shows that since 1996, someone in the nation turns 50 every 7.6 seconds, paving the way for a sizable contingent to be over 65 by 2011, one that will continue to grow until 2030.

The necessities created by failing health, increased medical costs and the inability of the Social Security system to handle the volume are becoming increasingly clear.

southern voice COVER STORY

And as an increasing number of Americans age, gay seniors are finding that they face particular psychological, social and legal challenges not only apart from younger gays, but from their heterosexual counterparts as well.

For starters, the nation's obsession with youth is even more prominent among gays, especially men, says Martin Weinberg, who wrote "The Aging Male," one of the first studies about gay men growing older in the 1970s.

"The lonely, aging auntie trying to carry a fragile and varnished Peter Pan quality into middle age is a specter before the eyes of young homosexuals — or as they so pungently put it, 'Nobody loves you when you're old and gay,'" Weinberg says.

As a result of that attitude, gay elders tend to be ignored, says John Yoakam, a sociologist and co-chair of the Lesbian & Gay Aging Issues Network, a constituent group of the American Society on Aging.

"The elderly in general tend to be invisible in our youth-oriented society," he says. "And that's also true within the LGBT community. One of our greatest challenges is ageism within our own community."

LGAIN offered a specialized group of sessions addressing the concerns of aging gay and transgendered people during the Joint Conference of the National Council on the Aging and American Society on Aging in Chicago last week.

Del Martin and **Phyllis Lyon** founded the early lesbian group Daughters of Bilitis in 1955 (left). Today, the couple eschews retirement communities but is active in the fight for gay seniors' rights.

The sessions, held March 13-16, included 13 programs and workshops on such varied topics as serving transgendered elders, gays caring for aging parents, specialized retirement communities and nursing homes as well as a general needs assessments for gay seniors.

PUBLIC POLICY HURDLES THAT ALL GAYS face can become heightened challenges as people age, Yoakam says.

"The government refuses to recognize same-

Please see **GAY AND GRAY** on **Page 55**

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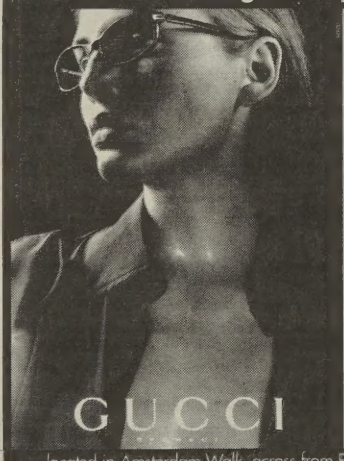

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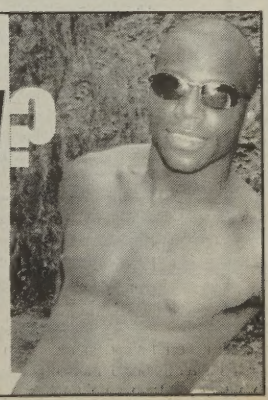
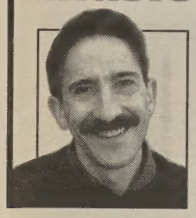


music JASON VICTOR SERINUS



Aspects of **latest Mahler recording** by gay conductor's symphony hearken chirps **of new life in time for warm weather.**

Spring is in the air

GAY CONDUCTOR MICHAEL TILSON Thomas continues to enhance his reputation as a Mahler interpreter of the first order. Coming on the heals of his Grammy Award-winning recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 6, this second release in San Francisco's Mahler series, recorded live in Davies Symphony Hall in September 2001, finds conductor and players in superb form.

In documenting his San Francisco Mahler achievements, Thomas finds himself pitted against the recorded legacy of past Mahler champions. His friend and mentor Leonard Bernstein never advised him in Mahler interpretation, but instead the legend encouraged him to "figure it out" on his own.

Thomas's performance of this immensely colorful symphony more than holds its own with Bernstein's live 1987 DG version with the Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Sonically, San Francisco has a seeming edge over the competition with its dual-layer, SACD (Super Audio Disc) technology. Even on a conventional CD player, the disc yields a dynamic range and clarity far greater than the competition's.

Played on a system equipped for 5.1 SACD surround playback, the dynamic range is even greater, with surround sound's extra sense of depth capable of transporting the listener one step further into Mahler's magical universe.

Curiously, at least in conventional CD playback, San Francisco's timpani and bass have less impact than Concertgebouw's. This is certainly not the case in live performance, where San Francisco's percussion and string sections, like the rest of the orchestra, are stellar.

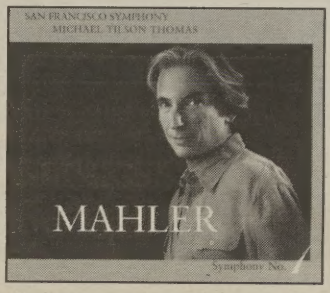
IN AN EARLY "PROGRAM" THAT HE later disavowed, Mahler equated the First's opening movement with spring.

"The introduction to the first movement sounds of nature, not music!" he wrote to conductor Franz Schalk.

Spring certainly blossoms in the delightful chirps and cuckoos from the woodwinds. In this recording, they seem to originate from different points in the wide, highly atmospheric soundstage and in melodies that flow like water in a limpid stream.

Thomas's sense of nature is magical, with wonderfully characterized melodic progressions and orchestral peaks. Even if some of the emotional transitions could be more sharply delineated and milked for all they're worth — as Bernstein does so well — and the movement's ending could be performed even wilder, this is a fine performance.

Thomas' second movement scherzo, a ländler (waltz-like dance), is far more successful than Bernstein's, which moves so slowly as to suggest that Mahler's couple has leaden feet.



After winning two Grammys this year for another interpretation of composer Gustav Mahler, gay conductor **Michael Tilson Thomas** does his mentor Leonard Bernstein proud with the release of Mahler's Symphony No. 1.

Perhaps Bernstein's interpretation is justified, given that Mahler's third movement begins by turning "Frères Jacques" into one of his trademark funeral marches, but I prefer to stick with Thomas and take the symphony one movement at a time.

Thomas impressively underscores the funereal aspects of the third movement. Both interpreters, Jewish by birth, excel in conveying Mahler's unexpected transition to a spirited melody with Jewish/Klezmer roots, and then to the final sad song from the Wayfarer cycle.

Gramophone Magazine may endorse Kubelik's sonically compressed 1968 performance over all others, but he fails to communicate the lilt and spark of Jewish folk melody that is in the other conductors' blood.

THOMAS'S CONCLUDING MOVEMENT is tremendous. The sense of presence is frightening when the orchestra lets loose.

Given that Mahler likened his opening to a bolt of lightning, both conductors whip their orchestras into a frenzy. Bernstein may prove more memorable in the way he winds down from this first of many Mahlerian storms, swells at the conclusion of the subsequent heartfelt interlude and hurls his forces through the climactic ending.

MORE INFO

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Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor
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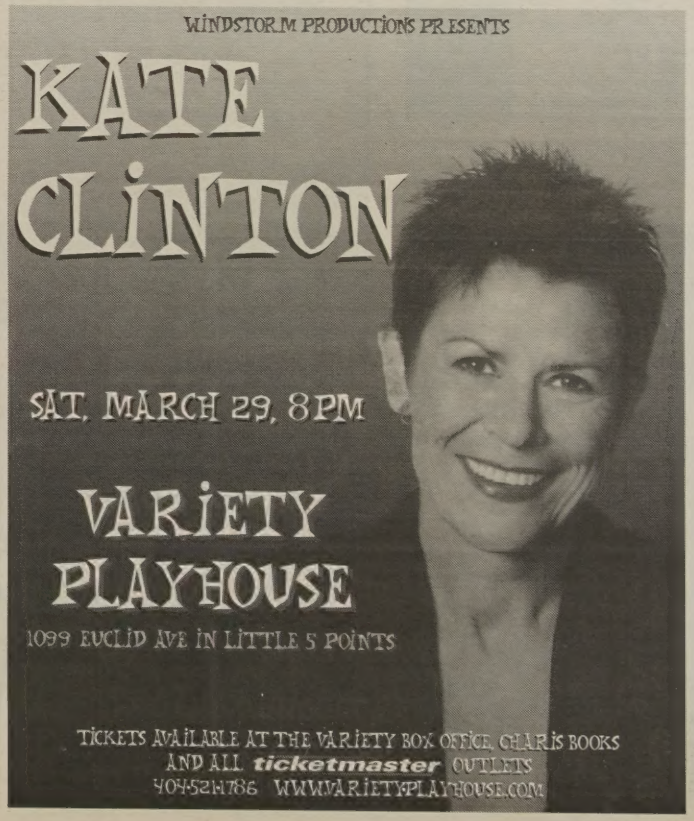
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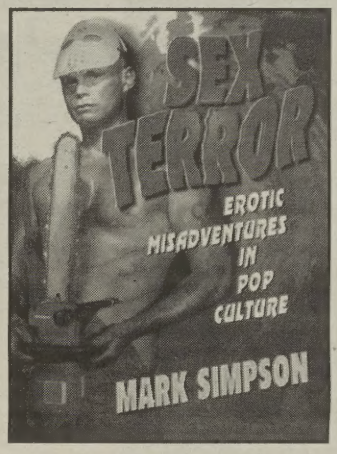
Informative with dash of bitter



IN HIS PREVIOUS COLLECTION OF essays, "It's a Queer World," Mark Simpson established himself as one of England's most eloquent and sardonic commentators on the states of homosexuality and queerness — and how those states are no longer necessarily the same.

In "Sex Terror," he again casts a bored, cynical gaze upon the world's tatty, pop-culture-dominated society and finds it wanting as he dives headlong into it. Sex, always a favorite target, receives more than its due.

Movies like "Stargate" and "Independence Day" seem more about protecting men's inner spaces from invasion than about saving Earth. In a survey, straight men choose fellatio as their favorite form of sex — even though, strictly speaking, it's sodomy.

There's no shortage of commentary on gay sex either. Anyone who's wasted a night in a bathhouse will empathize with "the humiliation of leaving such a place with full seminal vesicles is much greater than having sad sex with someone you can only find slightly attractive..."

Similarly, much truth can be found in his comment that "if boyhood was a time when you masturbated four times a day despite your best efforts to curb your habit, adulthood is when you masturbate only once a fortnight, despite your best efforts to do it more often."

And when he declares that "gay porn got so big in the 1980s that it swallowed gay sex and gay men altogether with a disgusting plopping noise," he's right on the money.

ALONG THE WAY, SIMPSON ASSERTS that "Roommates are a social disease," discusses Stephen Baldwin's penis at length (or rather, girth) with Alexis Arquette and bemoans Brad Pitt's movie stardom.

Simpson also keeps all manner of friends in a variety of far-flung locales. These include his transsexual chum Michelle; Hans, a "straight(ish)" Dutchman "who looks and sounds exactly like John Lithgow — only more neurotic and more Dutch," who mangles English grammar like Yoda; Lovely Charlie, fabulous proprietor of a notorious bar in Gibraltar; and the revelers of a bizarre birthday party in Scotland.

"It's so nice to meet a whole nation of people who are nearly as mad and slaggy as me after a few drinks," Simpson asserts.

All of the essays contained in "Sex Terror" have appeared in other (chiefly British) publications between 1996 and 2001, and Simpson takes a risky gamble with this approach. What appeared fresh four or five years ago could easily now reek of preciousness or seem dated.

Happily, such is not the case here. Most of Simpson's subjects are timeless and universal — particularly sex, desire and other human failings. His selected book reviews hum with verve, even if the books in question have been gathering shelf dust for ages or now languish in some warehouse of remainders.

SIMULTANEOUSLY INFORMATIVE and bitingly funny in their observations — "I've never used prescription antidepressants, but Leader's prose strongly inclines me to try" — the reviews make model examples of what a truly exceptional book review should do.

For instance, Edmund White fans may take umbrage at Simpson's pot shots at their beloved auteur — "For American and British fiction aficionados, White represents a cross between a bathhouse and an antiques shop" — but the barbs are delivered with such precision that one can't help but admire his pluck.

Mark Simpson won't be every reader's cup of tea, but those who enjoy a bitter blend of dark humor and keen social observation will want to drink deeply.

FOR MORE INFO

'Sex Terror: Erotic Misadventures in Pop Culture'
By Mark Simpson
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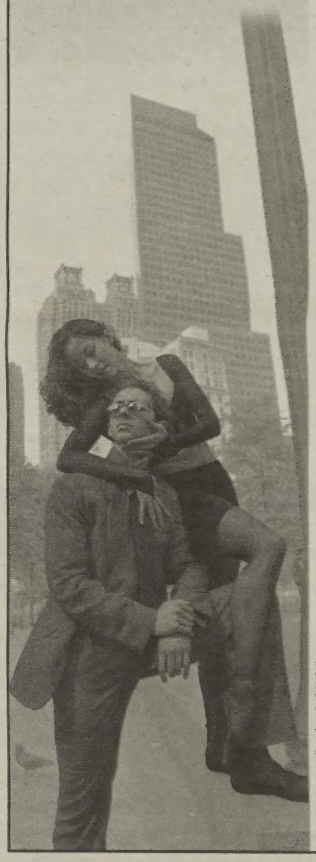

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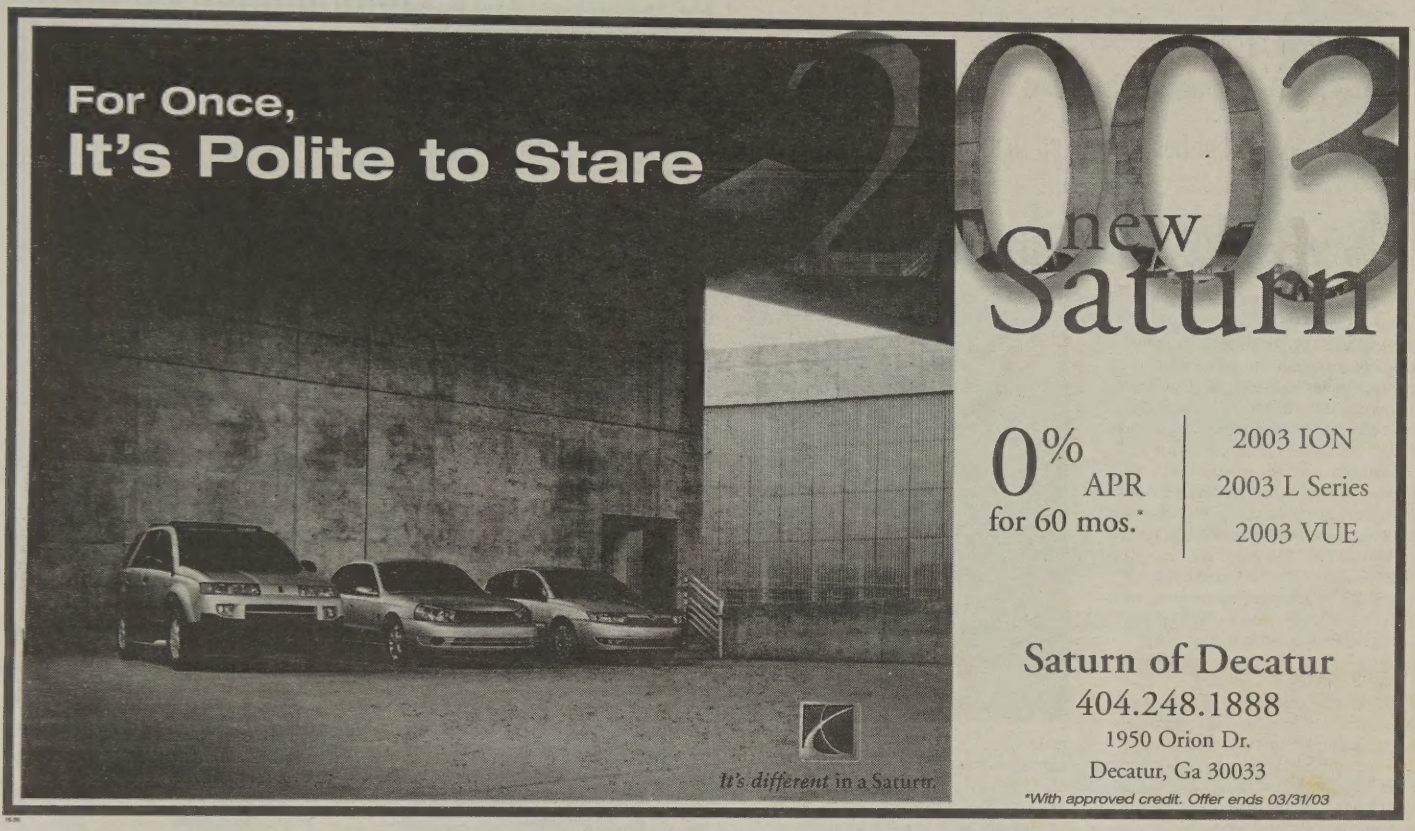
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television ALISON STINE

After seven seasons, is it possible that **'Buffy the Vampire Slayer'** can satisfy fans' expectations in the series' finale?

'Buffy' takes a bow

EVERY TUESDAY FINDS ME HOME with a gourmet meal and a bottle of Merlot, candles flickering, VCR rolling, channel tuned firmly to UPN. Don't call. Trust me, I'm not picking up. This night is reserved for my favorite girl, Buffy.

For seven seasons, the show that features angst-ridden teens who kill monsters, lesbian lovers who cast spells and a bunch of good-versus-evil plots, has been a huge hit with gay audiences. Maybe it's because "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" had one of the only long-lasting, same-sex relationships on network television.

Or maybe it's because "Buffy" is just one damn good show.

Sadly, Tuesday May 20 marks the final episode of a program that helped put the WB — its original network — on the map and launched lead actress Sarah Michelle Gellar's career, paving the way for roles in movies and ads.

In the March 7 issue of Entertainment Weekly, Gellar announced she is leaving the show when her contract expires. She and "Buffy" creator Joss Whedon spoke about a spin off series featuring original cast members, much like the WB's "Angel."

It's possible one of the Slayers-in-Training, who cropped up this season and is hogging Buffy's bathroom, might fill the bill. But none will match the ones in the original episode. It's like casting Barbra Streisand in the movie version of "Hello Dolly" instead of Carol Channing.

Gellar says she's willing to make guest appearances on the new show if Buffy isn't killed — not that death stopped this character before.

STILL, WITHOUT GELLAR, WHERE does that leave viewers?

I arrived in the "Buffy" universe relatively late. During season six, I flipped on the TV to find Gellar in a fast-food restaurant worker's uniform humping a bleached-blonde, leather-clad James Marsters against a wall. I was hooked and caught up with weekend repeats and newly issued DVDs.

"Buffy" presents a world where people love, lose and hunt the undead. Like "Twin Peaks," the show is populated with strange characters, dark secrets and a compelling humanity. At its heart, this is a show about being stuck with fate.

There was no official announcement until recently, but this season seemed Buffy's last from the beginning.

Buffy's watcher Giles (Anthony Stewart Head) returned from England to a house full of Slayers-in-Training. A vampire with a heart of gold, Spike (Marsters) came back to Sunnydale with a new soul. And Buffy got a job at Sunnydale High, which was newly rebuilt over the same hell hole, as her little sister Dawn (Michelle Trachenberg) started classes.

Lesbian fans of 'Buffy' were disappointed when the show killed off Willow's (**Allison Hannigan**) longtime girlfriend, Tara (**Amber Benson**). How will gay fans handle the show's final episode?

Willow (Allison Hannigan), the lesbian still recovering from the loss of Tara (Amber Benson), found a new, equally fetching girlfriend. The two remaining evil geniuses from last season returned from Mexico with guilty consciences, speaking Spanish poorly. One died a few episodes ago, and the other remains hilariously alive, pining for Xander (Nicholan Brendon).

The gang is all here, for what is likely to be their last homecoming.

With just six original episodes left, what could possibly take place in the finale?

In the past seven years, we've seen killer prom dogs, a high school built over hell, first loves turned into blood-sucking beasts and a sister made of cosmic energy. We've witnessed Buffy's effort to sing and dance and her mom's death from natural causes.

So it's anybody's guess how "Buffy" will end.

Perhaps they can sacrifice the Mini-Slayers or spare Willow and her squeeze. Or save Dawn and Xander. Whatever, just bring on the kicking and the leather pants.

And please, more humping.

MORE INFO

'Buffy the Vampire Slayer'
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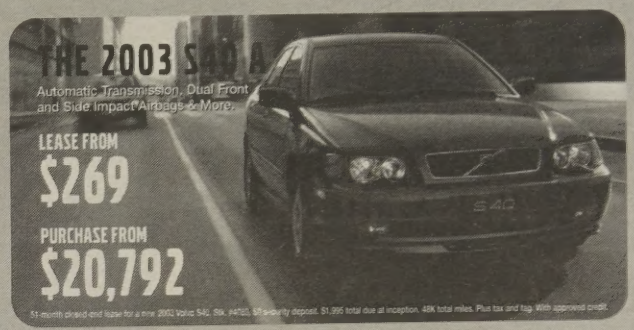

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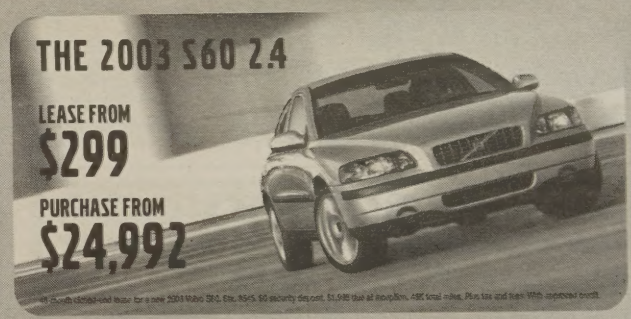

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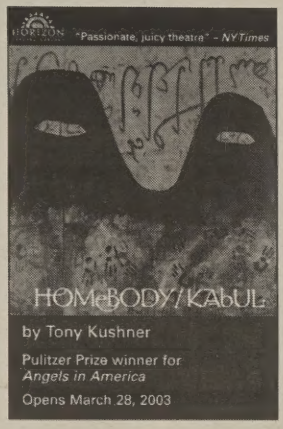

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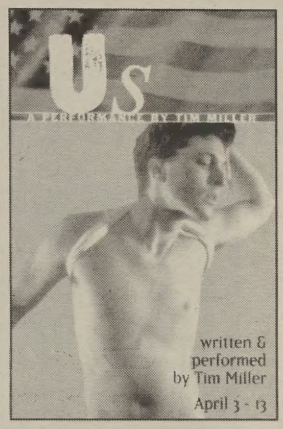

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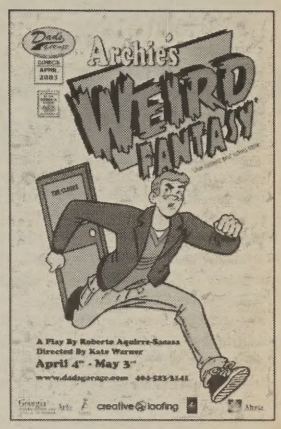

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Oscars' two Johns

Elton John to sing duet with man who beat him at this year's Grammys

GAY SINGER **ELTON JOHN**, THE celebrity who spent $200,000 on flowers one year, isn't known for his humility. He is known for his music and his charity, the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

Sir Elton, a part-time Atlanta resident, does more than most to raise money for AIDS causes. His foundation currently has a $45 million budget. During this year's Oscars telecast on Sunday, March 23, he will host his annual fund-raising soiree in West Hollywood. Last year, the benefit raised $550,000.

The event this year will feature an extra bonus: a duet between John and hunky 25-year-old singer-songwriter **JOHN MAYER**, the Associated Press reports. Mayer isn't gay, but the boys will wish he was.

The surprising thing about this pairing is that Mayer, a newcomer to the music industry, defeated John in the "best male vocal performance" at this year's Grammy Awards with his song "Your Body is a Wonderland."

"I'll be singing with him as well," John told the AP. "We'll either do 'Your Body Is a Wonderland' ... and we'll probably do one of my songs together, which we haven't worked out yet."

There will be plenty of other activities to keep guests entertained at the fund-raising bash. During the awards show, guests who accurately predict the Oscar winners are eligible for prizes such as Chopard diamond watches, Jimmy Choo shoes, and a MAC Viva Glam Swarovski crystal-encrusted lipstick — all of which would make any drag queen very happy indeed.

After the party, John is scheduled to resume his tour through May with fellow piano man **BILLY JOEL**. He then plans to write the music for the animated film "Gnomeo & Juliet," a production of Shakespeare's classic love story that includes a cast of garden gnomes.

CALL IT A SPRING FLING OR SOMEONE trying to save an anemic career, but **GERI HALLIWELL**, the former Spice Girl known as "Ginger" and current host of TV's "All American Girl" — a feat for this lifelong Brit — recently made a startling announcement.

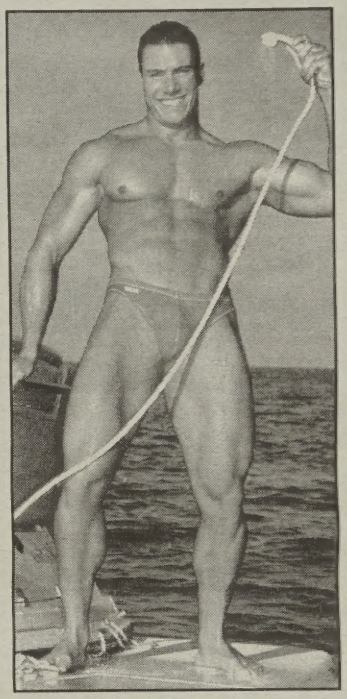
"I had a little lesbian thing," she told Reuters. "It was part of experimenting. It was somewhere between the ages of 16 and 30. It was just a drunken moment."

Halliwell says she's not a lesbian and is currently single, but she looking for a mate who is trustworthy, kind, sweet "and also my equal."

I guess those characteristics don't apply to her former flame **ROBBIE WILLIAMS**, who is not helping quash rumors he is gay by engaging in an all-male ménage a trios in the video for his new single.

Halliwell wouldn't pin down the time and place of her Sapphic romp, nor would she name the person involved. If Halliwell won't kiss and tell, only an educated guess is available.

Could it have been **MEL C**, the butcher-than-butch **SPORTY SPICE**?



If April showers bring May flowers, then **Fernando Nielsen** and the boys from the 'Swimsuit Special' will certainly melt the winter chill. (photo courtesy of Pacific Sun Entertainment)

AFTER A LONG, HARSH WINTER, THE temperature is rising, and thanks to the boys at Pacific Sun Entertainment — the company behind Men Magazine — it's rising even more.

In the company's new "Swimsuit Special," it appeared like an attempt to publish an all-male version of Sports Illustrated's popular issue. But, lo and behold, this 95-page special edition isn't as much about the swimsuits as what's inside them — and in many cases threatening to burst forth.

Pacific Sun photographed 10 of its hottest Eastern European "models" — whose names no one can pronounce — "interacting" on boats and in coastal towns in the Mediterranean.

The "Swimsuit Special" hits news stands March 25 and is available at www.buygay.com for $9.99.

At that price, it's definitely worth a look-see and maybe even a second glance.

@ Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com.

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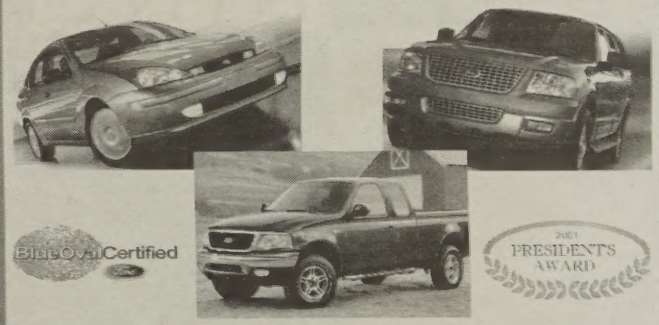

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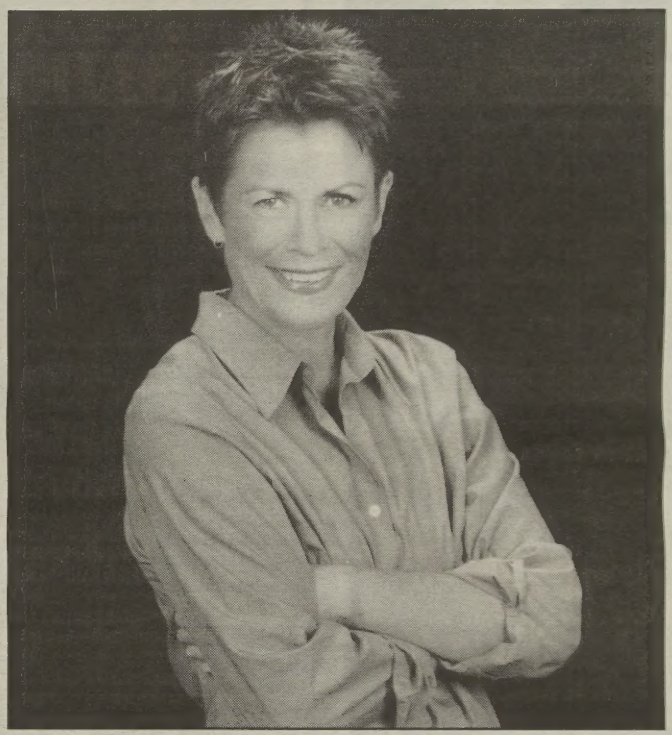
Comic relief for jaded fans

Lesbian comedian Kate Clinton brings fresh barbs to Variety Playhouse

By JANE LOCASTRO



Lesbian comic **Kate Clinton** looks forward to bringing some much-needed laughter to a savvy audience when she plays Variety Playhouse on March 29 and a fund-raiser for the Victory Fund on April 7. (Photo by Carol Rosegg)

THERE'S A CERTAIN IRONY THAT comedian Kate Clinton notices on her current stand-up tour.

"I have a sense that people really want to laugh," she says during a recent telephone interview from New York City. "We're all in such a state of siege that you can feel the pleasure of laughing. It's good for me, but it's bad for us."

After 20-plus years in the business of making people laugh, Clinton, known for her political humor, is never short on material. She brings her particular mix to Atlanta twice in the next two weeks, first at the Variety Playhouse as part of the tour, then a week later as part of a fund-raiser for the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund during the NCAA women's basketball finals.

Taking on politics came gradually in her career, but Clinton says that when she started in the early 1980s, "just saying you were a lesbian was pretty political."

Don't get her started on the guy she refers to as "the warhead" — George W. Bush.

"This is the most unsexy administration in a long time," she observes. "There's been a blackout on gay issues ... and it's a complete war on women."

THE MOVEMENT AGAINST WAR with Iraq should definitely involve gay organizations, she says.

"They might as well say, 'Those French, the little fags.' If you're for peace it's somehow 'gay' or 'wimpy,'" she says. "I think gay men have a real responsibility to stand up and call off their war-mongering straight brothers. It's an incredible issue about gender."

Citing one of her many literary influences, Clinton adds: "If you read Mary Daly's analysis of sado-masochistic ritual, you will have the whole war scene laid out before you."

Daly was among the writers who "took the top of my head off when I was coming out as an intellectual feminist," Clinton says, adding that mandatory reading for any recovering Catholic would be the lesbian author's "Beyond God the Father."

The product of a Catholic college education — without the benefit of women's studies programs — Clinton was an English teacher for eight years before a friend booked her for a stand-up gig in Syracuse in 1981.

Given her resume in the years since, Clinton may well be the Queen of Feminist Comedy.

SHE WORKED HER WAY FROM COFFEEHOUSES to concert halls, making several comedy albums along the way. Her first book, "Don't Get Me Started," was published in 1998, and her second, "Collected Speeches (I Never Gave)" is in the works.

Clinton's off-Broadway show, "Correct Me If I'm Right," premiered in 1999, and in the summer of 2000, she was the narrator in the Broadway production of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," where she shared the stage with Lea DeLaria.

As a humorist with a political slant, Clinton is a mainstay in the gay rights movement as well. In 1999, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

Her writing has appeared in the New York Times and other publications, and she writes a regular column in the Progressive and the Advocate. Advocate columnist and fellow activist Urvashi Vaid is Clinton's longtime partner.

Through it all, she continues to take her comedy act on the road. Fans can expect the usual skewering of cultural and political targets.

"Come to my show," she says. "I do a dead-on Joe Lieberman. It's awesome."

MORE INFO

Kate Clinton
www.kateclinton.com

Variety Playhouse
March 29, 8 p.m.
1099 Euclid Ave NE
404-249-6400
www.variety-playhouse.com

'Winning Women'
Victory Fund benefit
April 7, 7 p.m.
Wyndham Atlanta
169 Spring St.
www.victoryfund.org

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FRIDAY MARCH 21 & SATURDAY MARCH 22

The Women's History Month celebration of EstroFest Productions starts with **Kathy Rendel's** 'Rage Within/Without' at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday at 7 Stages Backspace Theatre, 1109 Euclid Ave. 404-797-0489, www.estrofest.org

SATURDAY MARCH 22

Spring into fashion as *Universal Gear and French Kiss* **'Celebrate Spring Cruisin,'** a fashion show for men and women hosted by Channel 11's Evelyn Mims at 10:45 p.m. Santino's, 230 10th St. 404-872-5700

The **Indigo Girls** join the lineup at this year's Lyrics for Life to benefit the fight against cancer at 7 p.m. Earthlink Live, 1374 W. Peachtree St. 404-885-1365 or www.lyricsforlife.org

MONDAY MARCH 24

CHRIS Rainbow Home benefits from a mock **'Miss USA Pageant'** fund-raiser running in sync with the live broadcast of its namesake pageant from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Mary's Neighborhood Bar, 1287 Glenwood Ave. 404-486-9034, ext. 104 or www.chrishomes.org

WEDNESDAY MARCH 26

Gay author **Michael Lowenthal** signs his novel 'Avoidance,' which deals with youth idolatry, at 7:30 p.m. at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Ave. 404-607-0082

Across town, **Cynn Chadwick** offers a fresh approach to lesbian fiction with her new book 'Cat Rising,' an adventurous mystery. Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304

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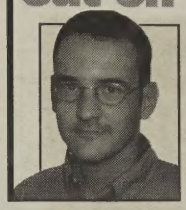

Football fans had their day in January, but gay Academy Awards parties **show how its done** as show date nears.

Oscars are gay Super Bowl

AS A GROUP OF FRIENDS RETURNED from dinner one blustery Sunday night back in January, the house across the street bustled with the sounds of straight guys partying. Outdoor space-heating lamps and kegs of beer dotted the yard, and heat-keeping plastic tarps lined the porch.

Occasional sharp increases in volume signaled that this was not just an ordinary kegger, but a football-watching party.

"Oh yeah, tonight's the Super Bowl," I said, nonplussed.

"I don't know what they're so excited about," said a cohort. "It's not like it's the Oscars or anything."

So it went that gay pop culture fans waited patiently for two months, sating themselves with pre-Oscars festivities like the Golden Globe Awards, until at last the Queen of All Awards Shows is set to air this Sunday, March 23.

Not only will gays be watching to see who shows up and what they'll be wearing — reasons enough to tune in — but this year's crop of nominees includes hands down the most gay candidates in history.

The producers of "Chicago" join the film's other gay nominees for director, screenplay and cinematographer. "The Hours" sports nominations for actors in gay roles and still more behind-the-scenes gay players. "Far From Heaven" tells the story of a married man coming out to his wife and was directed by gay screenplay nominee Todd Haynes.

Those three Best Picture nominations alone — and there are several high-profile gay hopefuls in other categories — are worth seeing if the Academy will finally stand up and recognize its gay underpinnings.

AS THE ANTICIPATION MOUNTS, plans for private viewing parties are in full swing — from intimate gatherings of a few friends to no-invitation-required blowouts.

The 75th anniversary of the golden statuette will be made even more special at two local gay watering holes.

Red Chair Restaurant & Video Lounge, the venue that has a reputation for fundraisers benefiting local non-profit groups, airs the show on its oversized video monitors to benefit Enlight Atlanta, which fights to end bias based on sexual orientation and gender identity in local schools.

A silent auction starts early with an open bar for participants. As the Oscars program starts, so does the party with a voting contest to pick the winners, drink specials and "lots of surprises," says Debi Lowry, board president for Enlight.

OTHER GAY BARS THAT ARE OPEN Sunday night will likely provide an opportunity to watch the parade of stars, but the most aptly named venue for the event, Ansley Park's The Oscars Atlanta is the perfect place to take in the glamour and excitement.

Sunday's Academy Awards presentation can be seen on the video monitors at Red Chair Restaurant & Video Lounge and **The Oscars Atlanta** with viewing parties to benefit local non-profit groups. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Of course, the venue is called The Oscars all year long, but they pull out all the stops for the awards show with viewing on multiple monitors and a ballot contest. Proceeds go to benefit Pets Are Loving Support, a non-profit organization that cares for the pets of people with AIDS.

If a private party with the girlfriends of the guys across the street doesn't sound special enough to celebrate the Academy Awards, Red Chair and The Oscars offer perfect chances to hit the town, enjoy the show and give a cut to worthy causes.

MORE INFO

75th Annual Academy Awards
Sunday, March 23, 8:30 p.m.
ABC

Oscar Party & Silent Auction
Silent Auction, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Viewing party, 7:30 p.m.
Red Chair Restaurant & Video Lounge
550-C Amsterdam Ave.
404-870-0532
www.redchairatlanta.com

The Oscars Atlanta
1510-C Piedmont Ave.
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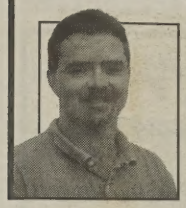

Gay playwright traces trio of friends to adulthood in bitter-sweet testament that **life's transitions** are unpredicatable.

Candice Holdorf, Ana Moreira and Rachel Garner play three friends from teen years to adulthood in Neighborhood Playhouse's production of gay playwright Jack Heifner's 'Vanities.'

It takes three

The best known work of gay playwright Jack Heifner is undoubtedly the comedy-drama "Vanities." These days, the play has all but disappeared, so it's a pleasure to see Neighborhood Playhouse give it a go, even if their attempt is a bit erratic.

"Vanities" begins in the fall of 1963. Friends Kathy (Rachel Garner), Joanne (Ana Moreira) and Mary (Candice Holdorf) are members of the high school cheerleading squad, getting their moves ready. As three of the most popular girls, they have the self-imposed task of planning many school activities.

Kathy has an ever-present notepad to write down ideas and organize everything. Outside of the prom and their cheers, their biggest worry is whether they will all be accepted to the same university.

Five years later, they are college seniors who have all pledged the same sorority and are facing life afterwards. Joanne is marrying her high school beau and Mary is traveling through Europe. The bubbly Kathy, for the first time in her life, questions her future, not really sure of what she wants.

In 1974, the trio has an ill-advised reunion in New York. Mary has experimented more than the others — including affairs with a number of people, mostly men — and is now operating a SoHo art gallery.

Joanne has had her dream come true: a large Connecticut house, a lawyer husband and children. But she has her own problems.

Meanwhile, Kathy's vision of her life has changed. She was once so eager to teach, but she realizes that it's just not for her.

HEIFNER REALISTICALLY CAPTURES the growth of (and between) these women. The conversation at their reunion is awkward. The enthusiasm and commonality that has kept them friends is gone.

Mary, so different from who she used to be, is ruthless in razzing the others. Poor Joanne naively believed that the three would be friends forever. The others realize that life moves on and accept it.

This production of "Vanities" is oddly directed. Angela Tonn gets mileage from the cast, but some of the scenes aren't fully realized. Especially awkward are some moments in the final act, when the actresses race through lines and aren't fully able to the take advantage of Heifner's bittersweet words.

Still, "Vanities" is worth a look, especially for its energetic actresses. The three young women are charming.

Garner's Kathy is initially such an organized busybody, it's a bit of a shock to see her so morose at the end of the show. Mary is the character who changes the most, and Candice Holdorf is most believable in her ascension from idealistic cheerleader to world-wise, cynical New Yorker.

It's Moreira's Joanne who turns out the saddest, still the same, oblivious to much of life, even what her husband does on the side.

FINALLY, 2001'S FINEST LOCAL SHOW — PushPush's "The Glass Menagerie" — is getting a re-staging, this time at the Rialto Center as part of Theatrical Outfit's season.

Tim Habeger's "Menagerie" features an African-American cast, including the exceptional Carol Mitchell. If you missed it the first time, make a run to it next week.

What's still left to be determined is how the show — so at home on its original, intimate PushPush stage — will fit the much larger Rialto.

MORE INFO

'Vanities'
Through March 30
Neighborhood Playhouse
430 W. Trinity Place
Decatur, GA
404-373-5311

'The Glass Menagerie'
March 25 - 30
Rialto Center for Performing Arts
80 Forsyth St., NW
404-651-4727

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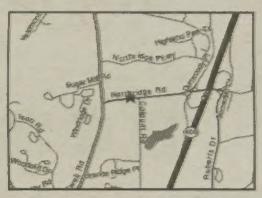

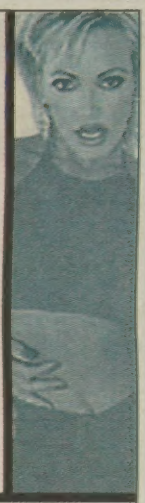

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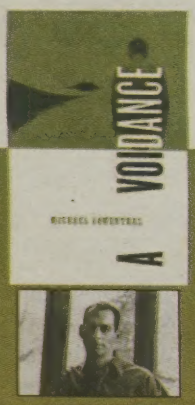

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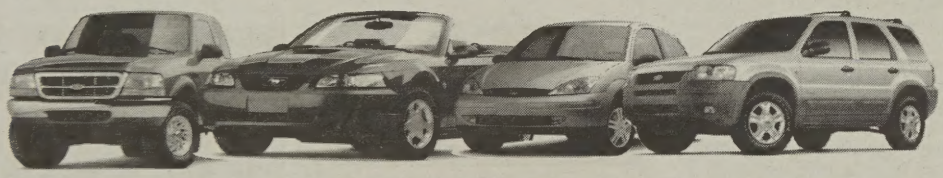

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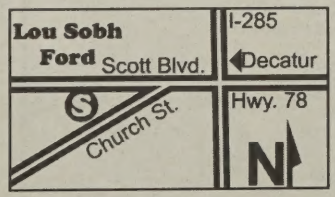

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Old standby **Veni Vidi Vici** lost much of its luster over the last several years, losing its focus and **succumbing to mediocrity**.

I went, I ate, I was bored

WHEN VENI VIDI VICI OPENED A dozen years ago, it was a sensation — partially due to its location at One Atlantic Center, gay architect Philip Johnson's postmodern skyscraper at 14th and Spring Streets. Midtown west of Peachtree Street is coming up fast now, but back then this was a pioneering location for a high-end restaurant. There was more superstar cachet.

The restaurant had Marcella Hazan as its culinary guiding light. She's famous among foodies for authoring great Italian cookbooks and converting even Americans who've never been there to that country's reverent approach to ingredients and kitchen procedures.

Is it symbolic of the state of this restaurant now that the second office building to go up at Atlantic Center was not, after all, a mirror image of Johnson's ornately detailed tower, but a cheaper, shorter, duller knock off?

Hazan is long gone from the restaurant. Buckhead Life, the group behind phenomenal restaurants like Pano's & Paul's and Bluepointe, took it over years ago. They're known for dazzling decors, exquisite food — or fussy food, depending on your aesthetic — and brigades of flawless servers.

VENI VIDI VICI STILL LOOKS FINE. The airy, witty original décor remains fresh enough. The food isn't bad, but you'll have to take notes to remember it in the morning. And while service is crisp and plentiful, it is hardly perfect.

The night I go, I am the victim of one of those waiters who is going to do it at his speed, period. He rattles off over-elaborate descriptions of specials so quickly that they are unintelligible. He interrupts conversations with abandon. He takes the opportunity to come by and point out, after one of his minions has delivered it to the table, that the sauce on the artichoke antipasto is "elegant."

Thanks, but I'll be the judge of that — especially in a place where it's no trouble to spend $40 per person for dinner, without drinks.

Pastas can be ordered in entrée or appetizer portions. My companion and I opt to share the small version of papardelle with duck and mushrooms ($9). We are thrown when two quite ample plates are set before us.

When we ask, we are assured twice that the starter-size serving has simply been split for our convenience. But it shows up later on our bill as an entrée ($16.25).

The roasted duck is tender. The mushrooms seem to be standard button variety, not the promised "wild" ones. The light tomato broth is pleasant but bland.

Another starter is a choice of two from the list of 16 antipasti ($9.50). The poached artichoke hearts are light and clean tasting; their elegant sauce is a mint pesto.

A pair of poached shrimp are overcooked and dry. But the big white beans they sit on have a nice peppery zing, and a curl of crisped pancetta adds a smoky, salty edge.

AN ENTRÉE OF BRAISED SEA BASS ($22.95) and tiny-diced zucchini has a nice presentation. The fish sits atop a thick slice of grilled Tuscan bread. This soaks up the tomato broth nicely — which is, alas, overwhelmed by fresh oregano.

When walking into Veni Vidi Vici, a heady, enticing whiff of meat from the wood-fired rotisserie wafts across the room. The menu offers chicken, duck and pig cooked this way.

A portion of the suckling pig is fork tender. A crusty wedge of skin sits atop it. In a single mouthful, bites of the two have great textural contrast, and the skin adds needed flavor. This plate comes with braised cabbage and mashed potatoes.

The potatoes were especially delicious. But mashed potatoes and artichoke hearts, however elegant, do not make a memorable meal. High expectations and lackluster experience force a mediocre rating for this place.

VENI VIDI VICI

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Food: 🍽 🍽
Service: 🍽 🍽
Comfort & Aesthetics: 🍽 🍽 🍽
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Scene: 🍽 🍽

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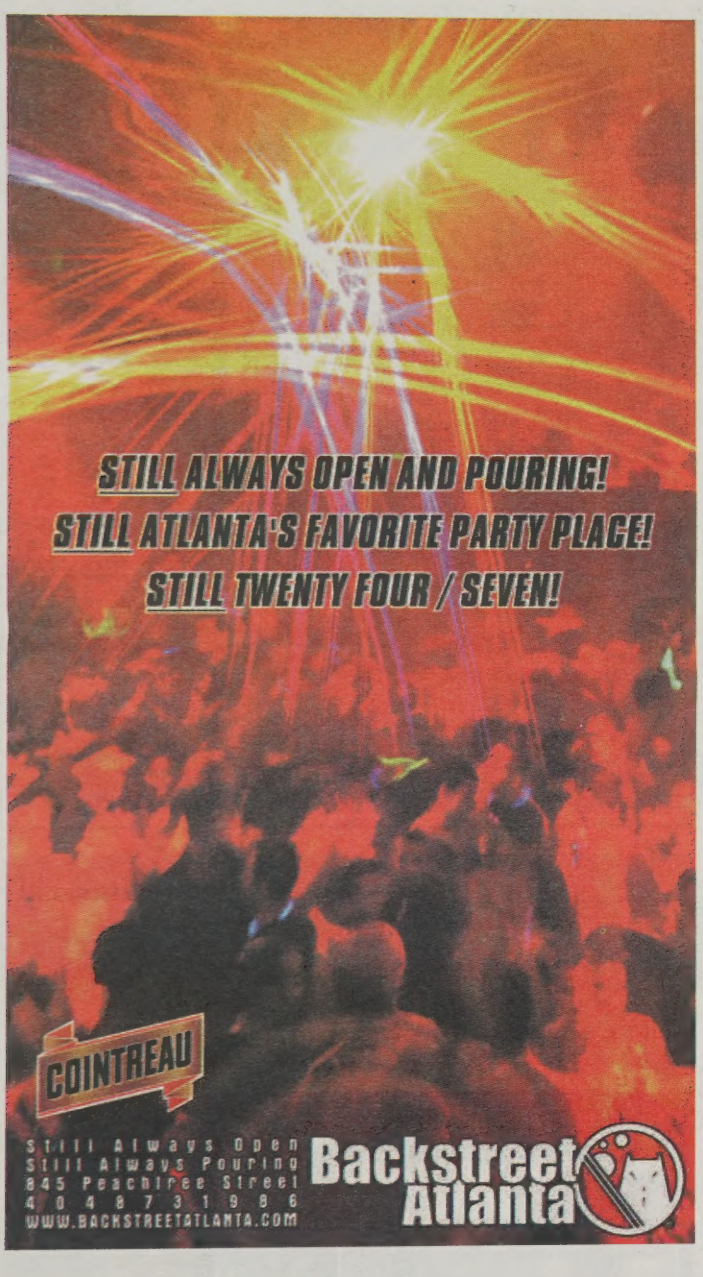

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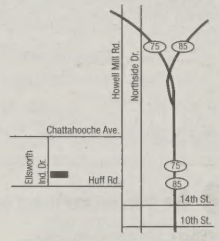

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Gay seniors face challenges with growing support

GAY AND GRAY, continued from Page 37

gender relationships on a federal level, which has implications about survival benefits, where a spouse or child would automatically get some death benefits," Yoakam says. "And that can also have some implications as to how you organize housing and who you recognize as legitimate couplings when you talk about federal housing and subsidized programs."

Other challenges, including wills that stand up in court and medical care providers that understand sexual orientation and gender identity, present problems for older gays, Yoakam says.

Another ominous problem for gays in their golden years is an increased risk of violence against them.

A 2000 study by Fenway Community Health, a Boston-based public health agency, shows that nearly 20 percent of anti-gay bias crime victims were middle aged or elderly.

The study suggests a perception that senior citizens "aren't supposed to be gay" makes them more likely to be victimized, and older gays reported a tendency to let down their guard in public.

The threat of violence aside, being left alone in old age can be one of the biggest fears among gays. People can lose a partner on whom they rely for income with no legal claim to pensions. Or worse, couples could be forced to separate or go back into the closet if they enter traditional retirement communities or nursing homes.

Activist and gerontologist **Mary Anne Adams** facilitates a discussion on 'Lesbians Aging in All Colors' in Atlanta on March 27. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

BUT CHANGES ARE AFOOT WITH THE growing awareness of the special needs of gay seniors. National support groups like LGAIN, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Aging Initiative, Senior Action in a Gay Environment and the Gay & Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons are lobbying for change and networking older people so that they have resources.

The mid-1990s saw an onslaught of plans for retirement communities that either welcome or are exclusively intended for gays. States such as Florida, New Mexico, California, Texas and Arizona — places that attract retirees of all orientations — either have or are seeing plans for housing villages and condominium communities for older gays.

Peter Lundberg, founder and planner of the Our Town Villages community outside San Francisco, says that gay retirement communities can ease people's minds as they deal with aging issues.

"Gay men and lesbians are concerned about who will be there for them during this final phase of life," Lundberg says. "Having a community of people who are going through the same thing, who are your neighbors, is so important."

But Phyllis Lyon, a longtime gay activist and author who along with her partner, Del Martin, founded the Daughters of Bilitis in 1955, says planners "can keep their retirement communities."

"It always seemed strange to me," Lyon says in an e-mail interview. "Why would you leave everyone you know in the place where you've been all your life to move off and live with a bunch of strangers?"

Lyon and Martin remain active in gay seniors groups from their home in San Francisco.

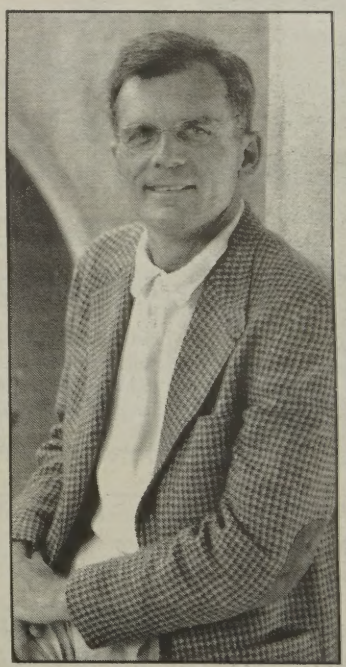
FINDING A SUPPORT NETWORK wherever you live is important, agrees Mary Anne Adams, a lesbian activist with a master's degree in social work and a specialty in gerontology. Adams will facilitate a discussion entitled "Survival & Resistance: Lesbians Aging in All Colors" on March 27.

The dialogue brings together lesbians up to age 79 as part of programming at Charis Circle, the non-profit arm of lesbian-feminist bookstore Charis Books & More.

"We need to begin a dialogue on aging and be inclusive of race and ethnicity," Adams says. "Not just those who are aging, but from all facets of this community — an intergenerational conversation that finds models for living, loving and being as we get older."

With older gays experiencing invisibility and isolation, gays have been too silent about aging, Adams says.

"The gay community has been portrayed by the media as a youthful community, and we've let that happen by ignoring the problem," she says. "We have a lot to learn from each other, and it's important to talk about it and take this whole fear out of aging, this notion that we're going to end up poor and alone with no support systems."



Peter Lundberg founded Our Town Villages in California, a retirement community designed for gays.

MORE INFO

Survival & Resistance: Lesbians Aging in All Colors
March 27, 7:30 p.m.
Charis Books & More
1189 Euclid Ave., NE
404-524-0304

Lesbian & Gay Aging Issues Network
American Society on Aging
833 Market St., Suite 511
San Francisco, CA 94103
www.asaging.org

Gay & Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons
10940 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1600
Los Angeles, CA 90024
310-966-1500
www.gaylesbianretiring.org

Senior Action in a Gay Environment
305 7th Ave., 16th Floor
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National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
Aging Initiative
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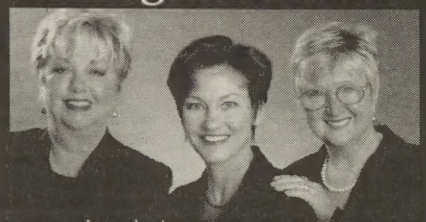

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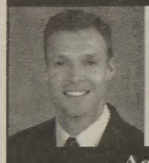

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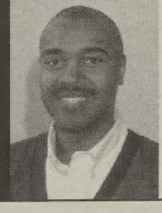

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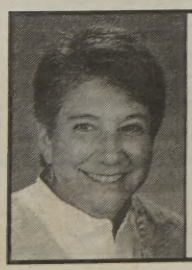

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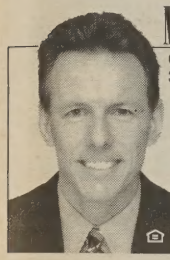

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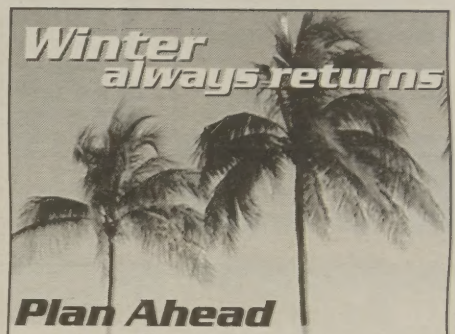

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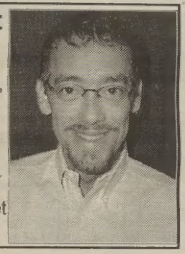

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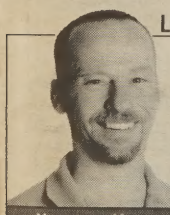

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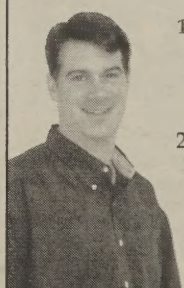

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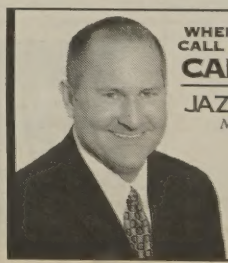

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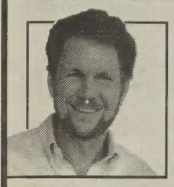

As temperatures teasingly climb, then drop, get through the next month or so with indoor touches to freshen **winter's last blast.**

Waiting for spring

Decorating with flowers goes a long way in scratching the itch for spring by brightening rooms with glimpses of the season to come.

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG ARCHITECTURAL intern, fresh in all senses of the word, I did my training in West Palm Beach, Fla., where winter was mostly warm and windowpanes frosted only when the steady blast of the air-conditioner met with the balmy outdoor humidity.

An occasional cold snap might briefly freeze oranges on the trees and send Bermuda-shorts-clad tourists scrambling for a sweater, but the cold never lasted longer than a few days. And cold, as you may have noticed, is relative.

During my first so-called winter, an elderly neighbor decided to take me in hand and teach me a thing or two about life. She had it all planned out: I would get my license, open my own practice, build a comfortable house in the suburbs, marry my best friend and somehow turn into Dick Van Dyke's alter ego Robert Petrie.

Well, my best friend Kathy did resemble Mary Tyler Moore. But I digress.

My elderly friend had come to Florida for only one reason: she hated winter. When she lived in Pennsylvania, she was ready for spring the minute the Christmas tree was dragged out of the house to be chopped up for the fireplace.

Hard frozen ground did not deter her from making her own spring. She had two large sprays of artificial forsythia that she shoved into vases on the living room mantle. Once she could see forsythia blossoms, she said, spring was on the way — even if the blossoms were only plastic.

Her lesson, I'm sorry to say, was completely lost on me. She left her artificial flowers behind in the frosts of Pennsylvania. It was hot, and besides, I was a hardened, cynical modernist, not to mention a world-class snob. The notion of plastic flowers only made me roll my eyes behind her back.

But there is a general letdown the few months after Christmas, even if you happen to love winter. A whisper of promised spring, even without a winter's chill to get over, makes the short winter days and long winter nights more like a new beginning than a long dismal ending.

YOU MAY NOT WANT TO INVOKE spring with sprays of polyester flowers. In fact, you needn't have flowers at all. There are many other ways of bringing that new-start freshness to the house.

The clean sweep of putting away winter accoutrements is a good first step. There is something about clearing away clutter that is renewing and refreshing. Usually, I rearrange the furniture a little, or at least change the room's accessories around so that they can be enjoyed from a new perspective.

Freshen rooms with light-colored accessories that will help wait out the last vestiges of winter

Don't make the sweep a complete one, but leave out the things that have a neutral winter theme for a little longer: a snowman cookie jar, a bright red amaryllis or poinsettia, a crystal bowl full of frosted glass ornaments.

Begin mixing in non-seasonal accessories that look clean and new such as icy crystal and crisp blue and white pottery. A few bright colors — the yellow of that forsythia for example in a throw, pillow, slipcover or bright piece of pottery — also give a room a fresh lift without breaking the bank.

This is a good time to freshen painted furniture with a new coat, or refurbish that dull family piece or second-hand bargain that you've been meaning to get to.

Open-arm chair seats are very easy and inexpensive to recover. Remove the seat and lightly tack temporary fabric onto the seat from underneath, and then change it when you get tired of it.

EVEN THOUGH FLOWERS AREN'T NECessary to pull off that atmosphere of fresh renewal, my elderly friend in Florida understood well that flowers always bring freshness. And there's a long list of fresh flowers available even in winter — long-lasting orchids, forced bulbs, winter-blooming camellias from the garden, or cut flowers from a florist.

Ideally, of course, the flowers should be real ones. But if pollen allergies give you fits this time of year, those may be more painful than refreshing.

So put the snobbery aside. There is nothing wrong with a couple of good-quality artificial blooms here and there, just as long as you don't get carried away and can change them out periodically so that they do what flowers are supposed to do: provide transient beauty that refreshes.

Go ahead and turn up your nose. But as for me, my old friend left a much stronger impression that I think I realized at the time.

Obviously, I didn't marry Kathy and settled in nicely with my own version of Dick Van Dyke instead. But there are two big sprays of artificial forsythia on my living room mantle.

And somewhere, my old friend is smiling.

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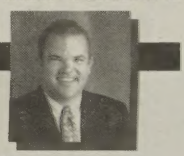

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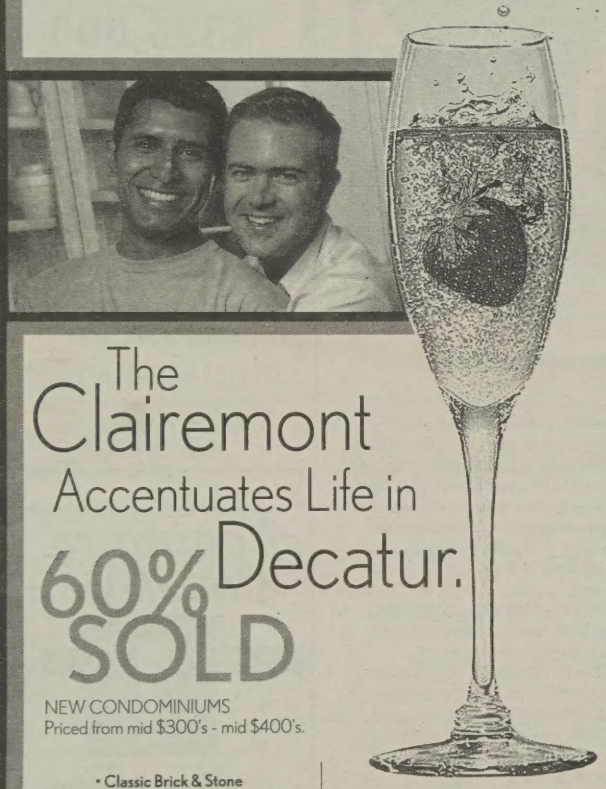

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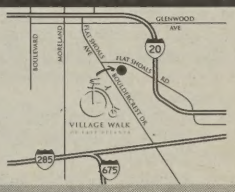

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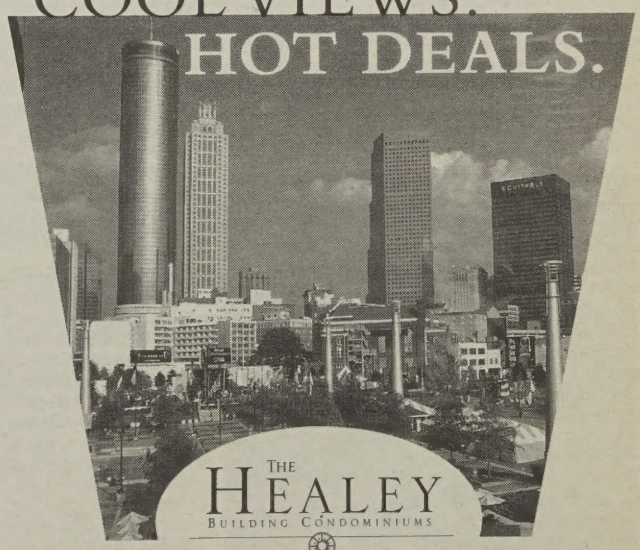

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ms. behavior MERYL COHN

It's not unusual to see **greener grass** on the other side, just as it's not inappropriate for new boyfriends to still **hold a few secrets.**

Committed gal wants 'ho time

Dear Ms. Behavior:

What do you suppose is the proper amount of wanderlust in a relationship? My girlfriend and I have been together for almost three years now. Also, she is the first woman with whom I have been in a sexual relationship.

I had come out before and dated other girls, but once she and I met, things became serious. It seems that what I've been looking for all of my life was a committed relationship with someone wonderful who makes me happy. And now I have that.

In the past few months, I have been getting restless and I keep wishing I would have met the "right" one later on and could have dated and fooled around with a lot more wrong ones. It's not a very rational thought for me, because I never was very good at just "fooling around" anyway.

I find myself looking around and wondering how things would be with this woman or that woman. Am I just experiencing a little "grass is always greener on the other side" syndrome? Or could this be indicative of a realization that I don't really want to be in this relationship?

And if it is the former, are there any ways to deal with those feelings so that they don't consume me and ruin a great relationship?

—A.

Dear A:

You sound like a thoughtful lesbian who doesn't want to blow a good thing. The "proper amount of wanderlust" is the amount your partner can tolerate without dumping you on your head.

Wanting more excitement than a stable relationship can provide is quite normal. What you do with those twitchy, lusty feelings will determine a large part of your future.

Just ask any middle-aged dyke who has had a series of seven or eight three-year relationships and now lives sans girlfriend with two drooly dogs.

It's fortunate that your restlessness is generalized at this point, rather than focused on a specific woman with whom you'd like to get jiggy. When lust seems to be about an individual, and you've not yet examined what it means about you or your relationship, you're much more likely to end up with your legs wrapped around your fantasy woman in a car during your lunch break.

This may be a hot way to spend an uneventful hour of your day — where your only lunchtime thrill might otherwise come from trying a new salad dressing — but it robs you of the opportunity to make clear choices.

Lustful energy is best nurtured by secrecy. You'll diffuse the strength of your fantasies if you share your feelings with other people, like perhaps a therapist and your partner.

If this notion seems unappealing, it's probably because you don't want to move beyond your current position of straddling true commitment versus what you perceive as sexual freedom. Even if your partner feels threatened by your feelings, confessing them will ultimately allow you to be closer, because you won't have a secret from her.

And then, even if you eventually feel you need more 'ho time before truly settling down, you'll at least have made a clear and conscious decision.

> The 'proper amount of wanderlust' is the amount your partner can tolerate without dumping you on your head.

Dear Ms. Behavior:

I dropped in on my new boyfriend Jack when he didn't expect me, and I saw something that surprised me: Jack was vacuuming his house while wearing women's underwear.

When he saw me — which was after I'd already seen him, since the vacuum was making a lot of noise — he quickly threw on a bathrobe. He didn't mention the underwear, but his face was red.

I feel disturbed about the whole situation, but feel that it would be impolite to ask questions since I barged in on his private time. Is this an inappropriate secret for him to keep from his boyfriend? Is it a fetish? Would he have told me eventually? Should I say anything?

—Prefer Boxers

Dear Prefer Boxers:

Jack clearly wasn't ready to share his panty preference with you. He may have wanted to wait until, say, your six-month anniversary to break out the lacy Victoria's Secret bikini ensemble, or until he felt safe enough to have determined that you wouldn't think he was a freak.

Or maybe he never would have shared this particular interest with you. It's not "inappropriate" for Jack to have something he enjoys doing privately, although vacuuming in women's lingerie is decidedly less conventional than a hobby like roller blading or knitting.

Think about how it affected you to see your boyfriend in women's underwear. Ask questions if they'll otherwise be in the way of your relationship — or if you'd like to watch him do it again.

Meryl Cohn can be reached at msbehavior@aol.com.

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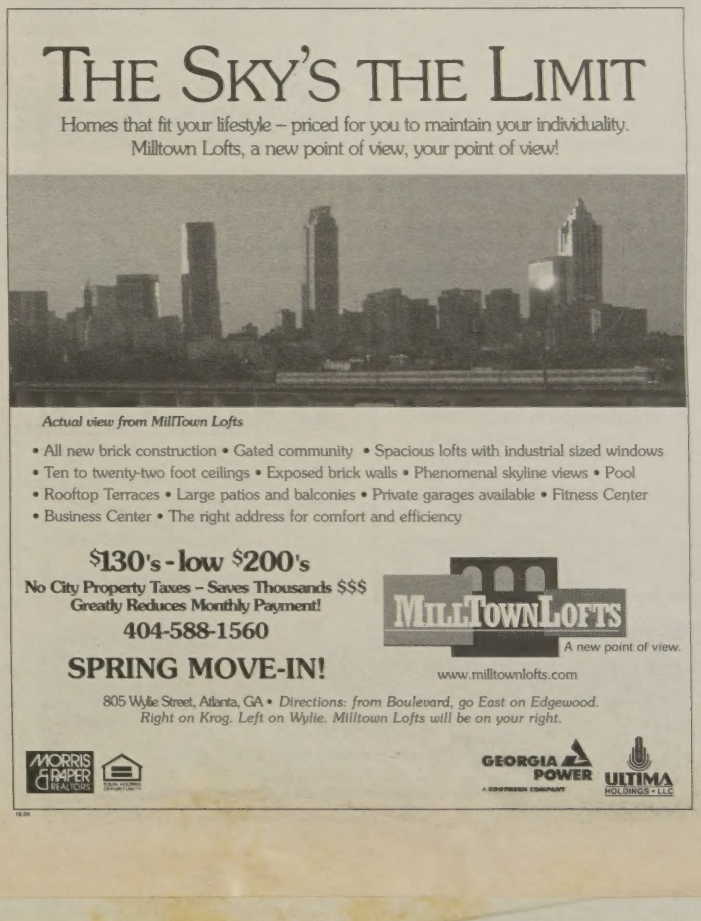
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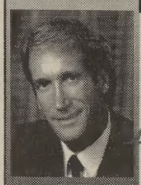
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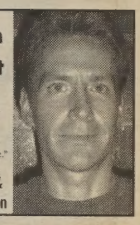

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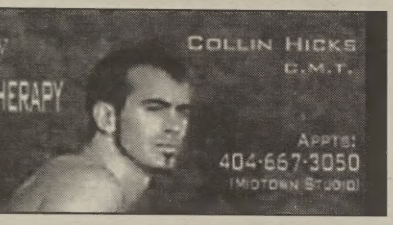

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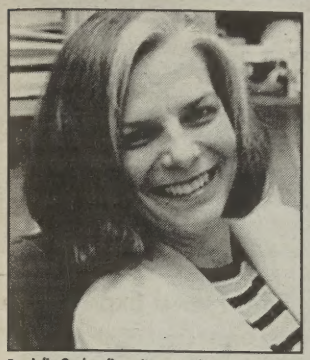
Mind, Body & Spirit listings

continued on pages 58 & 63

medical report

HIV/AIDS remains sixth-leading killer in U.S., CDC says



Dr. **Julie Gerberding**, director of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, said that HIV/AIDS prevention must remain a focus, despite a drop in deaths from the disease. (Photo by Chris T. Anderson/AP)

ATLANTA — Deaths from HIV/AIDS dropped four percent between 2000 and 2001, though HIV remains the sixth leading cause of death for people ages 25 to 44, according to a preliminary report from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. The disease kills African Americans ages 25 to 44 in disproportionate numbers compared to other groups, the CDC said. Dr. Julie Gerberding, the CDC director, said in a prepared statement that health officials should not let their guard down. Since new HIV infections continue to occur, she said, "we must remain focused on HIV prevention and keep positive trends in perspective," according to Reuters Health. The news about HIV comes as Americans are living longer than ever as deaths linked to major illnesses like influenza and pneumonia, heart disease and strokes, are down, according to the CDC. The latest numbers show life expectancy increased 0.2 years, reaching a "record" 77.2 years in 2001, up from 77 in 2000.

Women flexible in identifying orientation, study says

NEW YORK — Some young women drop the label of either lesbian or bisexual, though a new study says that doesn't mean their same-sex attractions are a "phase," according to Reuters Health. Among a group of women ages 18 to 25, some 25 percent who said they were lesbian or bisexual no longer identified themselves as such five years later, according to a study by Dr. Lisa M. Diamond of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. "A woman might have changed her identity, but might not have changed her attractions at all," Diamond told Reuters Health. Diamond interviewed 80 non-heterosexual women over five years. Of the women who dropped their non-heterosexual identities during that time, half "reclaimed" heterosexual identities, while the others gave up labels altogether. The study is published in the Journal of Personality & Social Psychology. The changes may reflect a struggle to fit "complicated personal experiences" into the "fairly rigid notion of sexual identity" in mainstream culture, Diamond told Reuters Health.

Broad conference on gay men's health set for N.C.

RALEIGH, NC — More than 100 workshops are planned for the Gay Men's Health Summit, which has drawn the support of leading health agencies like the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York and Fenway Community Health in Boston. The event, set for May 7-11 in Raleigh, will include sessions on HIV/AIDS treatment, drug and alcohol use, general health and wellness, transgender male sexuality, and the rise in syphilis and new cases of staph infections. "We want workshops that explore new ground, build new frameworks, articulate what has not been said," said Jim Baxter, one of the organizers. The summit is also focusing on men of color with the presentation of the Men of Color Institute. "As a Native American who is an LGBT activist, the proactive steps the organizers have taken to ensure there are no barriers that would normally inhibit men of color from participating is an incredible endeavor," said Harlan Pruden, an organizer of the event. For more information, visit www.GMHS2003.org.

Religious-based AIDS brochure dropped from health Web site

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The state Department of Health removed a religious-themed AIDS pamphlet from a list of educational brochures it promotes on its Web site after an online news service asked about the literature. The 15-page pamphlet — "A Christian Response to AIDS" — was intended to educate readers about AIDS "from a Christian viewpoint," according to the department's Web site, and quotes Bible passages to urge compassion for people with HIV. Agency spokesperson Richard McGarvey said the listing was removed from the site after Capitolwire, an online state government news service, asked about the brochure. "For a public Web site, it was decided it wasn't appropriate," McGarvey told Capitolwire last week. The department bought 10,000 brochures in 2002 with a $2,000 grant from the Congressional Black Conference. Some 6,000 pamphlets were distributed; the remaining 4,000 will be given out to anyone who asks for them.

Stock of company behind AIDS vaccines rises on financial forecast

BRISBANE, Calif. (AP) — The share price of Brisbane-based VaxGen Inc. soared last week after the beleaguered biotechnology company improved its revenue forecast for the year by 24 percent. The positive financial news comes after the company's stock fell sharply when it announced Feb. 23 that its AIDS vaccine experiment was mostly a failure. Claims by company officials that the vaccine was more effective among blacks and other minority groups were also criticized. VaxGen said it expects revenue of $16.1 million this year, $3.1 million more than previously expected. Much of the additional revenue is from an increase in a government contract to develop a genetically engineered anthrax vaccine, the company said.

From staff and wire reports

Mind, Body & Spirit

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- Abuse and victimization
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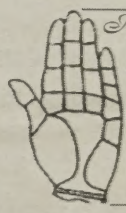

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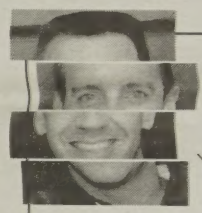

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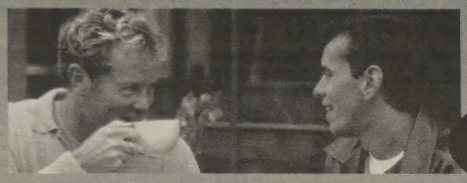

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Men Seeking Men

FRIENDSHIP
GWM, 35, 5'11", 154lbs, brown/brown, enjoys reading, walks, quiet evenings, clubbing, movies, dining out. Seeking settled, mature, intelligent GM, with similar interests, for friendship and more. Beech Island ☎343379

LET'S MEET
WM, 29, 5'7", 155lbs, brown/brown, moustache, goatee, looking for friendship and dating, maybe more. Rome ☎279998

MISSISSIPPI MAN
This GWM, 33, brown/brown, top, Scorpio, smoker, seeks a WM, 35-50, smoker, for companionship. ☎261865

GREAT PERSON TO BE AROUND
Clean-shaven SWM, 37, D/D-free, in good shape, seeks older gentleman, 45+, for friendship first, maybe more. He should enjoy the simple things in life. Fayetteville St Mall ☎254793

SEEKING BLACK AND SEXY
SWM, 5'9", 170lbs, enjoys camping, singing, dancing, quiet evenings at home. Seeking BM, with similar interests, for friendship, or personal, private LTR. Athens ☎959039

HOME-MAKER
GBM, late 30s Androgynous-looking bottom, HIV+ and very-healthy, loves house-work, cooking, cleaning, ironing, and a barber. Seeking average guy, top, who needs love. Race unimportant. Atlanta ☎959057

ALL YOU NEED
Down-to-earth, normal SM, 22, 5'10", 145lbs, black/brown, looking for WM, who likes rollerblading, mountains, beaches. ☎959136

LOOKING FOR YOU
GWM, 41, 5'8", 160lbs, dark/dark, HIV+, lean, muscular build, in good health, seeks GWM, 35-50, HIV+, who works out and takes care of himself. Atlanta ☎959072

SEARCHING TO FIND
GBM, 40, 5'11", 215lbs, brown eyes, HIV, healthy, loves cooking, movies, walking, etc. Seeking average guy, top, for some fun, maybe more. South side. ☎959087

HIBERNATION MATE
Bear GWM, medium build, seeks hairy and husky WM, 45-55, for hibernation. HIV- only. Usual interests. Prefer south side or east side metro Atlanta buddy. ☎959100

COMMON GROUND
SWM, 43, HIV+, healthy, Virgo, smoker, seeks same in a WM, 37-47, smoker, Atlanta area, for LTR. Clarkston ☎347566

WARM AND SINCERE
Outgoing GBPM, 44, 5'7", 165lbs, honest, masculine, enjoys movies, sports, travel, cultural events, quiet evenings. Seeking mature GBPM, 32-50, for LTR. Rome ☎335776

GIVE ME A CALL
SBM, 32, black/brown, beard, moustache, likes cooking, singing, reading, biking, movies, quiet times at home. Looking for someone special who is honest. Macon ☎273595

SEEKS THE RIGHT ONE
Mature, educated, caring, down-to-earth, fun, funny, spiritual, stable, loyal SBM, 32, N/S, black/brown, stocky build, 5'9", 215lbs, seeks SM, 20-39. Macon ☎324955

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
African-American male, 6', 185lbs, with a lot of pride, loves intimacy, quality time, long walks, and romance. Looking for employed, "out", dependable, self-sufficient B/HM, not into games. ☎294354

DARK CHOCOLATE
Smooth GBM, 38, 6', 170lbs, dark complexion, musician and government employee, looking to meet nice, feminine man, 30-45, who wants to be treated well. ☎302849

SENSE OF DIRECTION
Seeking stable Caucasian man. Attractive BM, 31, 5'10", 170lbs, seeks good-looking, masculine WM, 25-40, for friendship and possibly more. Prefer N/S. Atlanta ☎304127

CUTE, SWEET BOTTOM
Attractive BM, 5'5", 140lbs, auburn hair, moustache, conservative, seeks top for dating, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎959107

TIRED OF BEING ALONE
Mature GWM, 5'8", 145lbs, blond/blue, N/S, on North side, seeks stable, masculine, fit GWM, 35-55, for dating, possible LTR. Prefer 6' or under, H/W proportionate. Love travel, movies, dining out. Duluth ☎959063

ON THE SAME LEVEL
Healthy, versatile GBM, 37, 5'10", 130lbs, slender build, HIV+, wears glasses, bald head, goatee, enjoys movies, quiet times, cooking, baking. Seeking honest, outgoing GM, 30-45, N/S, preferably HIV+. ☎294677

LOOKING FOR FUN
Mature GWM seeks other males for fun, pleasure and friendship. Let's get together, call now. Atlanta. ☎959036

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?
WM, 44, 5'8", 155lbs, brown/brown, moustache, HIV+ but healthy, sincere, affectionate, masculine, loves the outdoors, gardening. Hoping to meet someone, 38-45, who has similar interests and qualities. Griffin ☎959082

HUGS & KISSES
Loving, caring, reserved, religious African-American male, 41, interested in starting LTR with African-American male, age open, for quiet times at home, lots of affection. ☎297574

LAID-BACK, MASCULINE GUY
WM, 26, 6', 185lbs, brown/blue, works out, likes the beach, travel, walks in the park, sports. Looking for fit, good-looking guy, 18-35, for dating. Jefferson ☎268867

NEW TO AREA
SBM, 36, 232lbs, black/brown, enjoys reading, sports, travel, dining out, movies, music. Seeking outgoing GM, with similar interests, for LTR. Atlanta ☎257245

SEEKING COMPANION
GBM, 32, 5'9", 155lbs, tone, slender build, very attractive, professional, discreet, seeks GBM for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎959095

VERY ATTRACTIVE AND...
masculine SBPM, 6'2", 225lbs, bald by choice, works out, outgoing, caring, looking for someone, 24-55, I can settle down with & develop a serious relationship. Lake City ☎279368

BEAR MATE WANTED
GWM, 55, 5'10", 230lbs, hairy bear bottom, seeks bigger bear top for fun, friendship and possible LTR. Woodstock ☎959044

CARING SWM...
tired of being alone. SWM, 6'3", 235lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, N/D, N/S, N/Drugs, Christian daddy bear, seeks Mr. Right, 25-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎959083

GROW OLD WITH ME
The best is yet to come. GWM, 38, 6'4", romantic, stable, sincere, monogamous, top, D/D-free, enjoys travel, music, sci-fi, dining out, and staying in. Seeking compatible GWM, 27-43. Roswell ☎959110

ARE YOU THE ONE 4 ME?
22-year-old African-American male, 5'9", 150lbs, hard worker, smoker, enjoys quiet evenings at home, good times. Looking for GM, 18-40, race open, with same interests. Fort Valley ☎292726

HAVE LOVE, WILL TRAVEL
Clean, discreet country boy, 37, D/D-free, enjoys the simple things in life, movies, dining out. Seeking sincere, trustworthy, down-to-earth teddy bear partner, 45+, who wants an honest relationship. Erwin ☎117343

SEEKING COMPANION
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎959031

HOW ABOUT YOU?
BPM, 50, 5'10", 175lbs, 42" chest, 32" waste, 15" arms, enjoys exercise, dining in/dining out, quiet evenings. HIV positive, looking for goal oriented GM, any race for dating, N/S, N/D. ☎959047

JUST ME
Serious SWM, 54, 5'8", 160lbs, lives in North Georgia Mountains. Seeking passionate, sincere, honest man. Cleveland ☎959103

LOOKING FOR LOVE
BM, 37, 6', 175lbs, medium build, wears glasses, HIV+, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking honest, outgoing man for dating, maybe more. Atlanta ☎959049

THRILL SEEKER!
GWM, 42, 6', 185lbs, brown/brown, N/S, N/D, not into the bar scene, enjoys adventure and excitement, seeks an active, well-rounded, no-drama, professional, kind-hearted GWM, 35-50, for friendship and possible LTR. Atlanta ☎296037

CURE FOR CABIN FEVER
GWM, bottom, 40, 5'7", 210lbs, light/blue, good health, into cars, racing, outdoors, dining out, staying in. Seeking GWM, top, 40-55, good health, bear/hairy, moderate drink/smoke ok, monogomous LTR. Serious only. Woodstock ☎275721

FAT GUTS , CHARLESTON, SC
GWM, 49, 300lbs, likes other large men, age/race unimportant (though Japanese and redheads a+), for very physical wrestling gut punches. Charleston ☎258743

MODERATION
GWM, 39 yrs, 6'1", great shape, curly hair, blue, HIV+, healthy, non tobacco, not into late night scene. Seeking secure guy for dinners, dating, romance, possible relationship. Atlanta ☎959038

Women Seeking Women

SPIRITUALLY CENTERED
Mature, straight-forward GPF, 42, enjoys simple life of quality vs. quantity, seeks same, enjoys good conversation, cultural events, reading, companionship. Friendship first and when it's meant to be, maybe more. ☎288400

WAITING TO EXHALE
BF, 5'8", long brown/brown, of large frame, telecommunications customer service representative, loves college football, basketball, and travel. Seeking woman for committed relationship. Atlanta ☎959061

GREAT CATCH!
GBPF, 24, seeks SF for friendship, possibly more. I am attractive, feminine, active. Seeking stable, D/D-free lady to enjoy life with. Atlanta ☎959126

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Female, 27, 5'3", 190lbs, long brown/hazel, loves watching football and occasional tennis, enjoys writing poems and short stories. Seeking friend, possibly more. Bloomingdale ☎959098

SAVE THE DRAMA!
Brown-skinned woman, 45, 5'7", 186lbs, smoker, looking for a special lady, 34-41, race open, to spend time. Not looking for a lot of drama! ☎317653

MATURE SOPHISTICATE
BF, 55, mature sophisticate, seeks same in professional BF to share dining, movies, travel, cultural events and comfortable home life, some discretion required. Stone Mountain ☎959099

I'VE BEEN WAITING
Feminine GF, 22, 5'6", 165lbs, medium build, seeks GF, 23-45, race unimportant, for friendship, possibly more. Charlotte ☎252166

Just Friends

WANTED FRIENDS
GWPF, mid-30s, seeks similar, 25-40, for friends. Enjoys arts, travel, outdoors, sports, music of all types. I enjoy watching movies at home and out, good conversations, sincerity. No drugs. ☎258934

FRIENDSHIP IS THE ROOT...
to all relationships. Female looking for a friend(s) to enjoy Atlanta and life with. Let's watch movies at home or get out and explore the town. Decatur ☎117471

TV/TS

LOOK NO FURTHER!
SM, 43, 6'1", 175lbs, dark complexion, in search of TS/TV for friendship or more. Leave me a message! Blue Ridge ☎110103

Been Glanced ?

GLANCED AT COWTIPPERS
Me: Red baseball cap, red sweatshirt. You: hooded gray sweatshirt, in the company of a lady. Wanted to approach you, didn't know how. Give me a call! Atlanta ☎251088

TARRAZU SUN. FEB 9TH
You: very hot, Asian-looking guy on first date. Me: with friends, sitting across from you. We made eye contact couple times. Wanted to give you my number, didn't have opportunity. ☎288931

BRUSH STROKES 1/19
You: very handsome, muscular, shaved head, glasses, in magazine section. Me: dark hair, sunglasses, black turtleneck. Exchanged glances. Too shy to speak, wish i had. Coffee? ☎113084

WHITE BUTTONFLY JEANS...
and red top that you wore so well a the Ansley Kroger Sunday, Jan.15 at 1 p.m. Can't get you out of my mind!! Atlanta ☎117288

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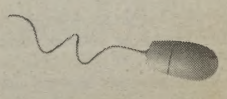

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✔CENTENNIAL PARK WEST Huge 2 BR PALACE all new, hdwd, WD, jacuzzi, balc, garage, conceige, many extras. $1,495/mo.
✔BROOKWOOD PARK (130 26th ST, 30309) 1 BR, 1 BA. Most utils incld. $899/mo.
✔TERRACES AT PEACHTREE (1 Biscayne Dr 30309) 1 BR, 1.5 BA, many upgrades. $995/mo.
"Proudly committed to our Atlanta community"
www.PrideRealty.com. (404) 352-5570. No fee service.

RENT / FULTON

ATLANTA RENTALS Pride Realty. Ansley/Midtown. Specializing in Metro Atlanta.
✔ 1 BRs $569/mo incl WD.
✔ 2 BR, 2 BA Garden apt $779/mo.
✔ 2 BR, 1.5 BA townhouse $835/mo.
✔ 3 BR, 2.5 BA townhouse $967/mo w/ porch.
✔ 1 BR, Roswell, furn w/ skylights $125/wk.
"Because There's No Place Like Home." Pride Realty. com (We Are a NO FEE Service) (404) 352-5570.

BUCKHEAD NORTH Great for roommates. 3 BR, 2 BA, on 1/2 acre wooded lot w/ hdwd flrs, all appls, alarm. $1,400/mo + dep. Alan, (404) 285-8407.

CABBAGETOWN Great renovation. Lrg 1/1 house, CHA, WD, DW, hdwd flrs, fenced yard. $875/mo. (404) 522-6142.

Luxury In Town Living for just $877.00?*

* Move-In Special Starting at $875.

The Reserve AT DRUID HILLS

Residents of The Reserve at Druid Hills Enjoy:

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- Cabana Grill
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Opportunities at southern VOICE

Join the nation's fastest growing lesbian and gay newspaper. Southern Voice is the flagship newspaper in the expanding Window Media chain.
We are currently seeking the following:

STAFF WRITER: A hard-working individual with at least two years of journalism experience. Excellent hard news writing, copy-editing skills and communication are a must. Proficiency with Microsoft Word is preferred but not required.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE: Duties may include updating weekly calendars and organization listings for publication, generating storyideas, and writing news briefs and community news stories. Additional, longer writing assignments are also possible based on skills and interests. The paid position requires daytime availability (between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.), but hours are flexible within that time period.

FREELANCE WRITERS: Seeking writers with interests in general news, arts and culture, or opinion columns. Send a letter explaining your area of interest and summarizing your experience, as well as writing samples.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE: The ideal candidate will have at least 3 years experience in a print environment and will be a self-motivated, with a winning personality and a proven track record in display sales. Southern Voice offers a great work environment, competitive compensation, comprising base plus commission as well as bonuses, and insurance benefits.

Send your resume, stating the position for which you are applying, to:
Personnel — Southern Voice 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta GA 30306
FAX: 404-876-2709 **E-MAIL:** editor@sovo.com

No phone calls, please

CLASSIFIEDS

GRANT PARK 2 BRs w/ decks, 3 BA, hdwd flrs downstairs, carpet upstairs, WD, gas stove, CHA, skylight, gas fpl, DW & priv courtyard w/ hot tub. $1,200/mo + $800 sec dep. *Half off April rent if moved in by 3/31.* William (404) 223-6747.

GRANT PARK / ORMEWOOD 888 Ormewood Ave: *Half off 1st mo rent!* 1 BR, 1 BA in duplex, CHA, WD hookups, custom kit, hdwd. Walk to the park & East Atlanta Village. $750/mo. (404) 377-1507.

INMAN PARK Charming, renovated 2 BR, 2 BA bungalow, driveway, fenced yard, porch, deck, WD, hdwds, fab neighborhood, walk to L5P. Avail mid May. MUST SEE! $1,395/mo. (404) 483-8808.

LENOX / I-85 1 BR basement apt w/ priv entrance, off st prkg, quiet neighborhood, new kit w/ granite counters. $690/mo incl all utils. (404) 266-9045 or (678) 938-5325.

MIDTOWN / PIEDMONT PARK 2 BR, 1 BA historic wilburn house. Huge balc, hdwds, 2 covered spaces, marble BA. Pets OK. Avail 4/1. $1,575/mo. Call (404) 879-9832.

PRIDE REALTY METRO ATLANTA LOFTS. Great secured Midtown locations.
✔ 1 BRs from $785/mo & up
✔ 2 BRs, 2 BA from $910/mo & up
www.PrideRealty. com
(404) 352-5570. (We Are a NO FEE Service).

RENOVATED MIDTOWN CONDO 2 BR, 1 BA LR/DR combo, fpl, WD. 2 blks from park. $950/mo. Call Phil (678) 576-7508.

UNIQUE LOFT SPACE/a Industrial/retro 1200 sqft, WD, DW, AC, secured covered prkg, full BA. $1,050/mo incl utils. (404) 229-7232.

RENT / DEKALB

BRIARCLIFF RD 2 BR, 1 BA, full kit, cable, WD, priv access, basement apt. Located 10 min from Midtown, Decatur, Emory & Buckhead. $900/mo utils incl. (404) 406-4354.

BROOKHAVEN AREA Near Lowe's, MARTA. 3 BR, 3 BA, 1950s ranch. Hdwds, lrg sunroom, indoor sauna. $1,250/mo. (404) 966-4094 or (770) 491-6609.

BROOKHAVEN / LENOX Grand level 2 BR, 2 BA, WD, gas appl, berber, storage unit, patio. 1 small pet OK. 3 min to I-85. $1,100/mo + dep. (404) 664-3009 or (404) 797-9853.

BROOKHAVEN Mid century modern 4 BR, 3 BA, 2 fpls. Updated kit, granite counters. $1,550/mo. (404) 266-9045.

CHARMING HISTORIC RENTALS
Half off 1st mo rent!
Walk to restaurants & shops.
✔620 W College Ave: 1 BR, 1 BA duplex in Decatur, CHA, WD, Custom kit, hdwds. $895/mo.
✔300 Oxford Pl: Studio apt in triplex in Candler Park. CHA, WD. $650/mo. (404) 377-1507.

CLAIREMONT / BUFORD HWY Wonderful 3 BR / 1.5 ranch. French doors to deck, hdwd flrs, lrg fenced yard. Gay friendly neighborhood. $1,250/mo. (404) 790-6961.

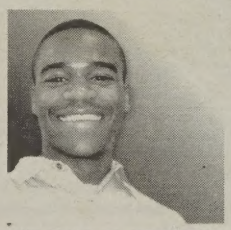
DECATUR (4211 Mercer Rd) Clean house for rent. 3 BR, 1 BA w/ hdwd flrs, WD connection & wired for sec system & CATV. Disc rent of $850/mo + $900 dep. (678) 418-3823.

DECATUR HISTORIC DISTRICT! Renovated 5 BR, 3 BA, Gourmet kit, hdwds, fpl, built-in bookcases. Pets negotiable. Walk to Square. Great for roommates or family. $2,500/mo. (404) 790-6961.

DORAVILLE 4 BR, 2 BA brick ranch, hdwds, fenced yard, frig. Near Burford Hwy @ 285. $1,100/mo. Call (678) 414-1523.

LA VISTA / I-285 3 BR, 2 BA. Convenient to wk/play, lrg neat/clean ranch house. Wood flrs, fenced. $1,000/mo. (770) 493-8971.

LARGE INTOWN BUNGALOW! Renovated 2/1 w/ huge kit, 2 fpls, hdwds, WD, fenced yard. All this plus convenient location. Walk to MARTA, close to Little 5 Points, Emory, GSU, East Atlanta. Pets OK. $1,200/mo. (404) 688-7274.



THINK SMART?!...ADVERTISE IN SOUTHERN VOICE CLASSIFIEDS
Call Rodney to place your ad! (877) 863-1885 ext 247.

SHARE / FULTON

BUCKHEAD GM ISO NS/drugs to shr lrg 2/2. $350/mo + half utils. $150 sec dep. (404) 814-9227.

EAST POINT 3 BR home. Priv RM w/ BA/phone/cable, WD, pool, all amens, MARTA, nice area. $550/mo + dep. Refs req'd. (404) 254-8546.

EAST POINT PGM, smoker ISO roommate to shr 2 BR, 1 BA house w/ deck & alarm. Security. $350/mo + 1/2 utils. (404) 768-0131 before 10pm.

EAST POINT 3 BR home. Priv RM w/ BA/phone/cable, WD, pool, all amens, MARTA, nice area. $550/mo + dep. Refs req'd. (404) 254-8546.

GRANT PARK Roommate wanted for Edwardian on the Park. Shr BA & kit. $125/week + $100 dep. (404) 627-4794.

GRANT PARK 4 BD, 3 BA 3,000 sqft house, WD, GREAT attic! 1 blk from Park. ISO neat, NS, responsible roommate. $475 + 1/3 utils/cable. $400 dep. Dave (404) 221-1375.

MIDTOWN GM to shr 2 BR, 1 BA apt. w/ responsible M/F. $525/mo + 1/2 utils. Avail 4/1. Todd (678) 358-4699.

MIDTOWN GM seeking same to shr 2 BR, 1.5 BA condo. $525/mo + half utils. (770) 828-0030.

MIDTOWN GWM to share 2 BR, 1.5 BA w/ WD in Ansley Forest TH overlooking pool. $500/mo + 1/2 utils. (404) 815-1051.

SHARE / DEKALB

AVONDALE / I-285 GM sharing lrg 4 BR, 2.5 BA house. CATV, DSL for computer, garage space for a car, fenced backyard. Pets very OK. $350/mo + utils. Call Gary (404) 294-9061 or email to hond@mindspring.com.

CANDLER PARK GM ISO roommate for furn 2 BR, 2 BA home. $400/mo incl utils. Contact Jerry (404) 373-8765 or jmp475@bellsouth.net.

DECATUR / I-285 Beautiful house to shr w/ roommate. 3.5 BR, 2.5 BA, lrg rm. $525/mo + utils. Call (404) 508-8150.

DECATUR RM avail in beautiful 3 BR / 2 BA home. $450/mo. Utils incl. Call Susan (770) 395-2546.

COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

ANNOUNCE YOUR UNION Southern Voice is proud to announce the addition of a "Commitment Ceremonies" category to our Classified listings. When making arrangements for your Union, don't forget to include the most important aspect of all...announcing the date. Publishing your union is easy & simple. Call (877) 863-1885 ext 223 to put the finishing touches on your ceremony.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR COMMON WELFARE will provide free HIV testing & counseling. testing using oral fluids & urine test; daily 9am-7pm & Sat 9am-1pm.. Located at 4329 Memorial Dr, Suite H; Decatur (next to Dekalb Co jail). Call (404) 296-3090 for details.

www.weddingbells.com Beautiful Victorian chapel/retreat center, accepting reservations for commitment ceremonies, weddings, renew vows. Overnight accommodations w/. breakfast. Singles, couples, small groups. 30 mins North of Perimeter. Smoke-free adult environment. Call (678) 947-5002. E-mail: Meshad@aol.com

LIFE PARTNER COMMITMENT CEREMONIES performed by like-minded minister. Call Reverend Angelia Hall (770) 942-9744. Ask about small ceremony packages.

UNUSUAL FRIENDS PROJECT seeks interviews w/ 20+ year friends of different race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, physical condition, income or religion. Nick King (800) 551-3756.

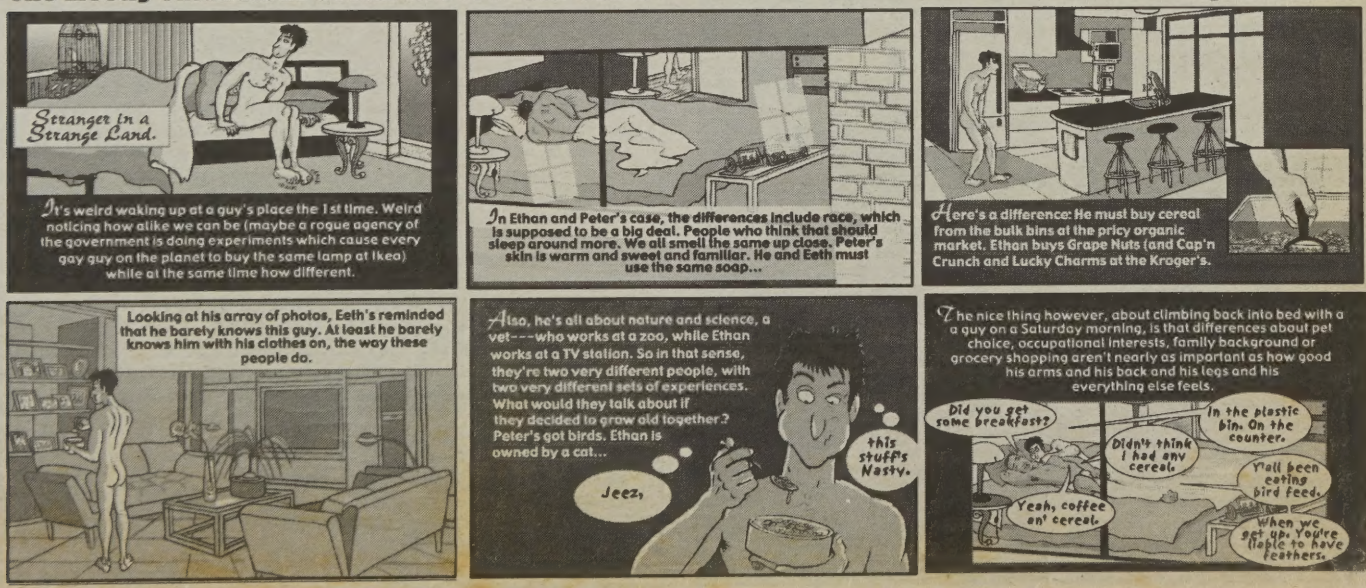
EMPLOYMENT

$10-$15/HOUR DRIVERS If you are a NS & possess:
✔Reliable 98 or newer vehicle
✔Extensive customer service background
✔Avail M-F 8am-6pm or 12-6pm
✔Familiarity w/ Metro Atlanta
✔Ability to use a map book
We provide:
✔Great benefit package
✔Friendly & caring company
✔Drug free work place
For consideration, fax resume to (404) 627-2130 or email: bwocinc@bellsouth.net.

B & B HELP WANTED Lynwood Place B&B is looking for live in help wanted. Ideal for: retired, student or someone on disability. We would consider a couple. Room/board. Fwd all inquiries to: Altaa@aol.com or view or website: lynwoodplace.com.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of ETHAN GREEN

by Eric Orner


Stranger in a Strange Land.
It's weird waking up at a guy's place the 1st time. Weird noticing how alike we can be (maybe a rogue agency of the government is doing experiments which cause every gay guy on the planet to buy the same lamp at Ikea) while at the same time how different.
In Ethan and Peter's case, the differences include race, which is supposed to be a big deal. People who think that should sleep around more. We all smell the same up close. Peter's skin is warm and sweet and familiar. He and Eeth must use the same soap...
Here's a difference: He must buy cereal from the bulk bins at the pricy organic market. Ethan buys Grape Nuts (and Cap'n Crunch and Lucky Charms at the Kroger's.
Looking at his array of photos, Eeth's reminded that he barely knows this guy. At least he barely knows him with his clothes on, the way these people do.
Also, he's all about nature and science, a vet---who works at a zoo, while Ethan works at a TV station. So in that sense, they're two very different people, with two very different sets of experiences. What would they talk about if they decided to grow old together? Peter's got birds. Ethan is owned by a cat...
Jeez,
this stuff's Nasty.
The nice thing however, about climbing back into bed with a a guy on a Saturday morning, is that differences about pet choice, occupational interests, family background or grocery shopping aren't nearly as important as how good his arms and his back and his legs and his everything else feels.
Did you get some breakfast?
In the plastic bin. On the counter.
Didn't think I had any cereal.
Y'all been eating bird feed.
Yeah, coffee an' cereal.
When we get up. You're liable to have feathers.

CLASSIFIEDS

CIRCLE THIS AD! A terrific PT opportunity to provide non-medical assistance for th area's elderly. Work w/ the #1 elder care service in the USA. Car reqd. Home Instead Senior Care. Call (770) 392-1070.

CUSTOMER CARE REPS $8-$11 per/hr if you are a NS & possess:
✔Exceptional Customer Svc Background
✔Avail M-F (PT to start)
✔Word Processing skills
✔Familiarity w/ Metro Atlanta
We Provide:
✔Great Benefit Package
✔Friendly & Caring co.
✔Drug Free Work Place.
For consideration, fax resume to (404) 627-2130 or email: bwocinc@bellsouth.net.

DOG DAYCARE & BOARDING Facility in Decatur, GA ISO energetic people to work FT or PT hrs. You must be dependable, have solid references & be willing to work wkends & holidays. We are looking for people that not only love dogs, but understand dog behaviors & breeds & have no stereotypes. Growth opportunities & paysscale is $8.75-$10/hr depending on experience. Vet techs are encouraged to apply. Please apply to employment@rexandroxys.com.

DYNAMIC BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY Good income. Hot markets. No door-to-door sales. Free no obligation info. www.BuildBigDreams.com. (888) 304-1643.

EXPERIENCED TELEMARKETER WANTED
Gay Owned Independent Health Insurance Agency looking for professional w/ telemarketing/sales experience. Qualified applicant will have:
✔Professional Phone Voice
✔Excellent Communication Skills
✔Good follow up skills
FT M-F: $10/hr plus weekly Bonus. If interested, Email resume to Fishpaw@kentbalch.com.

FT/PT COURIER needed for rapidly growing gay-owned courier company. Great income, flexible hrs. Must own reliable transportation. Call Dan (404) 627-8011.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY! Seeking dependable, otivated professional minded persons wanting to control their own future. Residential cleaning agency. Program setup to help you work for yourself. Call today to discuss your future. PROmaid (404) 475-6243. www.PROmaid.net.

HOUSTON MILL HOUSE @ EMORY UNIV A restaurant & special events facility, seeks a la Carte servers, must have previous exp & be able to work lunch M-F. Great opportunity for energetic go-getter! Please call (404) 727-7878 to schedule an interview. No calls before 9am or after 5pm.

JOIN THE BLACK TIE TEAM Now hiring PT servers, supervisors, captains & bartenders. Upscale clientele, flexible schedules, diverse work locations. Great 2nd job for students, actors, empty nesters, models, flight attendants. Pursue your interests. Work when you want to. Reliable transportation reqd. More info at (770) 234-0707, e-mail blacktie@mindspring.com.

CAREERS

AMAZING OPPORTUNITY Make a difference in the Gay Community while working from home. PT or FT. Call (404) 294-9991.

VOLUNTEERS

ATLANTA HARM REDUCTION CENTER is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing info, condoms, referrals & more to the people who are the underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time & energy. For more info write to: AHRC; 1020 DeKalb Ave NE, suite 17; Atl GA 30307 or call (404) 526-9222. Email us Ahraatlanta@juno.com.

DESIGNATED DRIVERS OF ATL ISO Team Drivers to take impaired individuals & their cars home for FREE!. Sponsors incl: bars, restaurants, nightclubs & corporate events. Work in teams of 2. Many of our volunteers receive $$$tips$$$. 10pm-4am, Thurs, Fri & Sat to provide safe rides to impaired drivers. Call Mike, (404) 888-0887 ext 104.

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PIANO LESSONS Priv instruction avail evenings & weekends. Intermediate to advanced students & adults desiring technique refresher. Experienced professional musician. (404) 351-0829.

INSTRUCTION

FREE INTRODUCTORY CLASS TO: KUNDALINI YOGA.
✔Date: Sat, 4/12 @ 1pm
✔Location: Kashi Atlanta
✔Ph: (404) 688-6757
✔E-mail: Bhagavati000@Earthlink.net
Kundalini Yoga is a powerful tool that helps us to experience the natural wonders within ourselves. Regular practice unleashes the energy that is being held as stress, pain, anger & fear. Bhagavati is a Kundalini Yoga instructor, certified in the techniques as taught by Kundalini Yoga Master, Yogi Bhajan. Bhagavati's life & classes are also a reflection of the rich spiritual teachings of her Guru, Ma Jaya sati Bhagavati & Jaya Devi Bhagavati.

TRAVEL / U.S.A.

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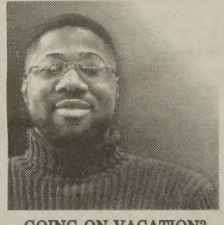

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BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA Quality cabin rentals. www.blackbearcabinrentals.com or (888) 902-2246.

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INTERIOR PAINTING Free estimates! Call Steve (404) 627-6801.

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THE COLONIAL CABINET SHOP Mastercrafstman Mike Doerner's exquisite heirloom-quality custom furniture & cabinets. Featured on HGTV. www.colonialcabinetshop.com. (678) 363-7499.

OAKVIEW LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION designs & installs custom fences, decks, unique stone, brickwork, retaining walls, patios & 1-of-a-kind landscapes. Excellent refs avail. For estimates call (404) 966-8292. www.oakview-fencing.com

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LANDSCAPING

LAWN MOWING Just bought a new home? Yard need cleaning? Autumn leaf & gutter clean-up services. Dale (770) 496-1537 or (770) 757-6909.

LOVE YOUR YARD Johnson's Lawn & Gardening Service. Lawn maintenance, garden design/installation & creative container plantings. Seasonal services incl pruning, mulching & annual color. It is easy being green. (404) 610-6601.

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD ON THE WEB!
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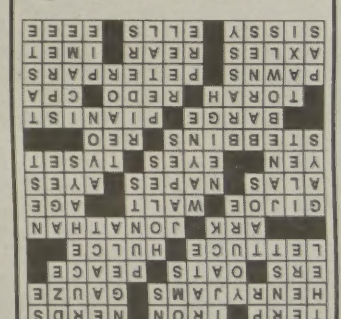
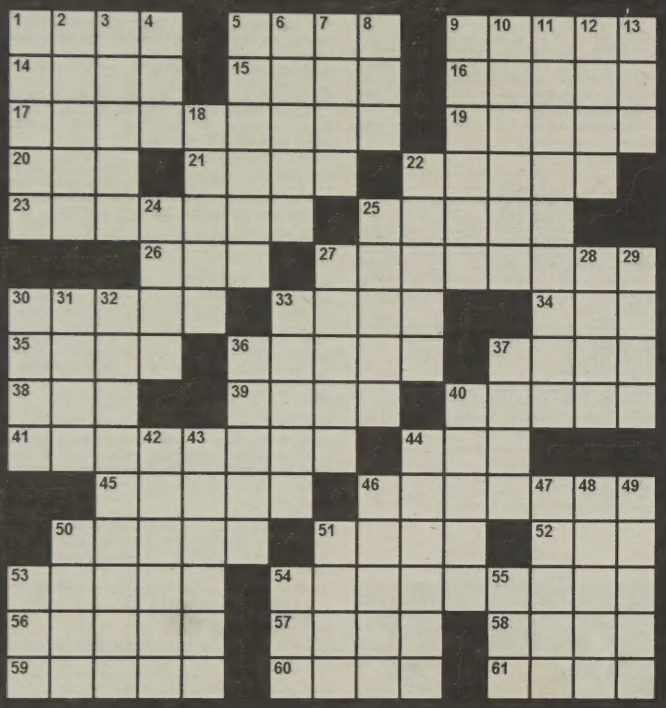
or call
1-877-863-1885

Q-Puzzle Answers



Puzzle on page 70

Q Puzzle



'E Minus'

Across

1. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
5. Gore Vidal work, with "At"
9. Opportunity for Glenn Burke
14. Maryland athlete
15. Club for Sheehan
16. Jocks' antitheses
17. "Daisy Miller" author rocks on?
19. Dressing in front of Dr. Kildare
20. Episodes with Dr. Kerry Weaver
21. Mouthful for a stallion
22. Jane Addams' Nobel Prize
23. Drag queen Hedda ___
25. "Amadeus" star
26. Boat with two cats
27. "Coming Out" author Katz
30. Macho doll
33. "I Sing the Body Electric" poet Whitman
34. Personal-ad stat
35. "Uh-oh!" to Lord Byron
36. Backs of necks
37. First mate's pair
38. Money for Ihara Saikaku
39. Kim Carnes' "Bette Davis ___"
40. Where to see "Friends"
41. Sculptor Emma
44. Classic auto
45. Boat with a flat bottom
46. Barbara Higbie, for one
50. Scroll at Beth Chayim Chodashim
51. What "let" means to Martina
52. Ted's "QAF" job
53. They stand in front of queens
54. British tenor makes a decent golf score?
56. Rods of drivers
57. Word before admiral, in the navy
58. Laura Nyro's "___ Him on a Sunday"
59. Pantywaist
60. Julia Morgan wings
61. Large shoe size, or letters missing from four answers in this puzzle

Down

1. Lucy's gal pal
2. Handle on a machine that cuts leaves of grass
3. Adolf's intimate Rohm
4. David Sedaris' home on the air
5. London greeting?
6. Emulate Cicero
7. Funny Mabley
8. Two pairs for Adrienne Monnier
9. Matter of Out Recording
10. Cause of a Boston raid in 1773
11. Olympic swimmer works his pitchfork?
12. Woodcarver's tool
13. Poet who inspired "Cats," initially
18. Start of a top Cole Porter song
22. Kicks the ball instead of going for it
24. D.H. Lawrence's Southwest retreat
25. Puts in the cup
27. Makes fun of
28. "The African Queen" author
29. Kristy McNichol sitcom "Empty ___"
30. G of PFLAG
31. "___ a Song Go Out of My Heart" (Mel Torme)
32. "Plain Pleasures" writer knocks over some pins?
33. Batman's alter ego Bruce
36. Sound from Rita Mae's stable
37. Bard's river
40. "Coffee, ___ Me?"
42. New York Theater critic Clive
43. Like Auntie Mame
44. Dykes on Bikes, e.g.
46. Piece of a pansy
47. Caesar's postorgasmic claim?
48. Abercrombie & Fitch buying binge
49. Sample some buns, e.g.
50. Jodie Foster's "___ Driver"
51. It winds up a Schumacher film
53. Swan Lake step
54. Part of PMS
55. Often fruity dessert

Answers on Page 69

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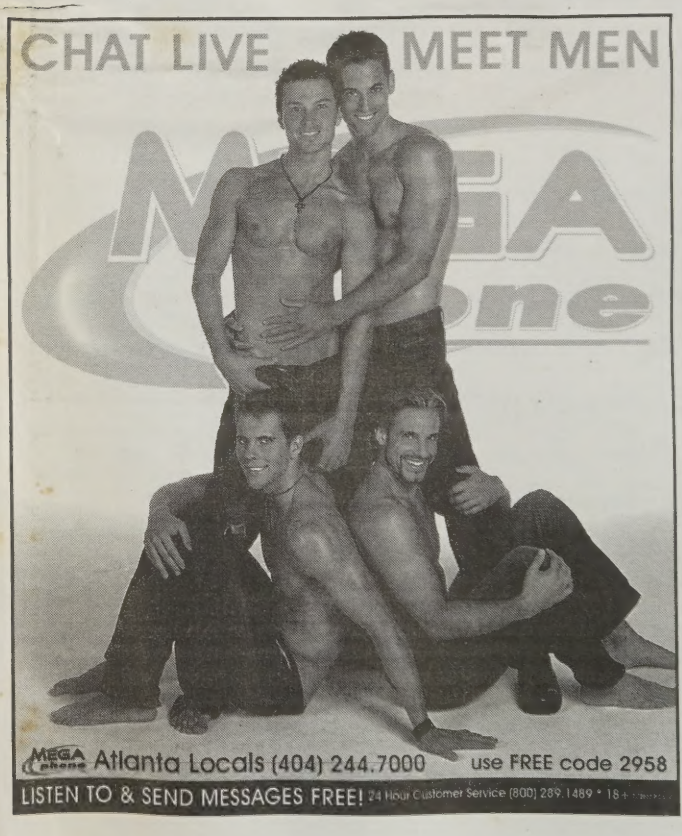
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